

thechronicle

Clear contender

Glass makers hope crystal will cut it with the Queen

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No small beer

Festival draws 2,000 fans over weekend

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Saxon battle

Weather chill reflects spirit of cold defeat

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Rock rolls off line to mark zoo's 75th year

A NEW rock of ages – the sweet variety – has rolled off the production line at a confectionery store to celebrate Dudley Zoo's 75th anniversary.

The attraction celebrates its big birthday on May 6.

And Edward Gray's of Dudley, known locally as Teddy Gray's, has pulled out all the stops to deliver a special orange version of rock, labelled up to mark the big birthday.

Teddy Gray's, which was founded in 1826, has been making rock for the zoo since it opened in 1937. It is normally pink.

Teddy Gray, aged 76, who is joint managing director with his sister, Betty, said: "We're making 1,000 sticks this time and it will be special because it's for the zoo's 75th anniversary."

They are the fifth generation of the family to run the company.

Teddy Gray's sticks of rock, produced in its factory in North Street, were sold from a kiosk, where visitors could also buy ice cream, at the zoo each summer until 2005.

The rock will go on sale during a special anniversary weekend at the zoo on May 5 and 6, which will include children's entertainers, the opening of the £40,000 Penguin Bay attraction there and a "birthday trail".

By-election to be organised

A BY-ELECTION is to be held to fill a seat left vacant by the death of a popular councillor at the age of 67.

Dudley Council confirmed residents would be asked to go to the polls to choose who will take on Councillor Angus Adams' Norton seat.

Authority officials said a notice of vacancy would be published after this week's elections. A date for the by-election will then be decided. Councillor Adams' funeral took place last week.

● Farewell – Page 2



Tim Jordan, left, and Paul Harborne, with their replica of the famous car from the film Ghostbusters

Spirit of fun drives Ghostbuster car

IT HAS taken hundreds of hours of hard work during a two-and-a-half year period – and now mechanic Tim Jordan and car enthusiast Paul Harborne are seeing the fruits of their labour of love after unveiling a replica of the famous car from the hit film Ghostbusters.

The 1960 Cadillac Miller-Meteor has been transformed into a replica of Ecto-1a complete with mock ghost-capturing equipment.

The car, which has been painted white and has the famous Ghostbusters logos, will be hired out for

special occasions such as birthdays. Mr Jordan said: "It looks fantastic. But it's not a job for the faint-hearted."

"These cars were hand-built not made in a factory so this has made finding parts for the car extremely difficult. I have made a lot of the panel body work for the car myself."

"It has not been an easy job by any stretch of the imagination. But to see the car finished and looking so good has made it more than worth it," added the 42-year-old.

The end of the project is also a poignant moment for the mechanic as

it is the last car to be fixed up at his garage, Tricklicks, off Stallings Lane, in Kingswinford.

He has decided to call time on the business due to a drop in demand for its services.

He will now concentrate on the new business of renting out the eye-catching car to party-goers and for weddings as well as other celebrations.

"There just isn't the work there used to be so I made the hard decision to close now before things got worse. But I am now planning to be a Ghostbuster," he said.

Teenagers facing egg ban in shop crackdown

A SHOP in Wordsley has imposed a ban on selling eggs to under-18s to help crack down on anti-social behaviour.

Staff at the Spar store, in Lawnswood Road, introduced the strict ban after eggs sold to younger teenagers were thrown at a nearby house.

And bosses said the rule, normally reserved for the sale of alcohol and cigarettes, had been supported by the community. Signs have been put up at tills in the shop telling customers of the policy.

They read: "Due to recent activities in the local area we are unable to sell eggs to anyone under 18 years of age. Sorry for any inconvenience."

Staff at the store said the scheme had been backed by local policing teams in the area who even helped provide some of the signs.

Manager of the Lawnswood Road store Sue Williams said they had to take action after problems.

"We decided to take the step after there was an incident where eggs were sold to 16-year-olds. Around 30 minutes later we were visited by the police who said the eggs had been thrown at a house. Since then we have followed this policy."

Doors trap passengers

A STOURBRIDGE traveller was one of dozens trapped inside Birmingham Airport's baggage area at the weekend when security doors became stuck.

Keith Law, of Lawrence Street, who had just arrived from Belfast said: "It was ridiculous. There was one Birmingham airport worker on our side who was frantically trying to find out what the problem was."

The doors opened after 30 minutes. An airport spokesman apologised.

VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE REVEALED

THE RAPIDLY changing face of Stourbridge continues as demolition work gains pace – while these images provide a glimpse of how the town will look following a £50million redevelopment.

The ageing Crown Centre will be replaced by a modern Tesco supermarket and shopping complex breathing new life into the town centre.

Dudley Council has released a series of artist's impressions showing the entrance to the new development off Lower High Street as well as views from the Ring Road.

They also show how the town square, which hosts the iconic town clock, will be improved to make it more attractive to shoppers.

One of the images, provided by Hertfordshire based architects Saunders Partnership, shows the view of the development from nearby Coventry Street.

The new Tesco store which is being created in place of the existing Crown Centre, will bring with it 400 new jobs and a 550 space-car park.

The council's director of urban environment, John Millar, said: "Now that Bell Street multi-storey car park has been demolished it is time to start looking forward to this exciting development."

"It is the most significant investment in Stourbridge in decades and we are confident it

By Heather Large

will bring an increased footfall to the town." The demolition of the Crown Centre is continuing before preparation work for the new underground car park gets under way.

It is expected to take another seven weeks for demolition work to be completed.

Contractors are also busy removing debris left behind by the old multi-storey car park in Bell Street.

The car park was brought down using explosives on the morning of April 1.

About 30kg of high-speed explosives were put inside the ailing concrete car park by demolition experts.

Christmas

Once the demolition work has been completed, contractors will begin to dig out the site for much of the rest of this year in preparation for the new underground car park.

Construction work on the supermarket is expected to start early next year and bosses want it to be open in time for Christmas.

Retired fashion designer Joann Willetts, aged 83, who lives at Baylie Court, in Green Street, which is opposite the development site, said she was "amazed" by the changing landscape of the town.

"It has made such a difference since the car park was knocked down. I think it looks so much better."

I am looking forward to watching them build next," she added.



The revamped town square, according to a newly-released artist's impression, with the supermarket and shopping centre development in the background



A view of how the new Tesco superstore will look from the Stourbridge ring road

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Hundreds say farewell to dedicated councillor

Easing the pressure on health



Practice nurse Louise Johnston takes the blood pressure of patient Jack Bates

PORTABLE blood pressure machines are being handed out to GP surgeries across Dudley borough. They will improve the way doctors diagnose whether patients have the condition and reduce the number of unnecessary appointments.

Anyone suspected of having high blood pressure will be sent home by their GP and asked to wear a monitor for 24 hours. The

results will then be analysed by the doctors before any treatment is prescribed.

At the moment it is checked in the surgery and then the patient is invited back for additional readings to be taken so an average measurement can be calculated.

The ABPM machines have been provided by Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group after changes in the national guidelines.

MORE than 500 people turned out to pay their final respects to a popular Stourbridge councillor, who died suddenly at the age of 67.

The funeral of Dudley Council's regeneration chief, Councillor Angus Adams, was at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, last Wednesday.

Mourners began arriving more than an hour before the service started.

Party differences were put to one side as councillors from across the political spectrum paid tribute to a "dedicated" man remembered for his witty sense of humour.

As a mark of respect to Councillor Adams - who was also chairman of transport authority Centro - representatives from that organisation arrived in a double decker bus.

Reading

It remained parked up outside the church throughout the funeral service, which was led by Rev Ruth Atkinson.

Chief Executive of Dudley Council John Polychronakis gave a bible reading before Councillor Adams' granddaughters Amy and Jessica read poems.

The final hymn sung was Jerusalem and the musical piece Highland Cathedral was played to mark Councillor Adams' Scottish her-



Councillor Angus Adams

itage. A private service was then held for his family at Stourbridge Crematorium.

A tribute was read out by his sister Carol who said her brother, christened Arthur, had been raised in Aberdeen.

She said the family did not have much money but had wanted for nothing.

The family had later moved to England and it was there Councillor Adams received the nickname Angus he would come to be known by.

Council leader Les Jones paid tribute to his "friend and dear colleague".

"He was well-known for his one-liners. He was also very dedicated to his family," Councillor Jones said.

Take a stall at festival

TRADERS and charities still have time to take a stall at an annual community event which will be attended by hundreds of visitors.

Wordsley Festival will be held at King George V Park off Bells Lane on June 16 from 11am.

Events already confirmed include Tom and Tilly's World of Tomfoolery and the Mighty Smith Show.

Anyone who would like a stall should contact 07582 306200 or wordsleyfestival@gmail.com

Shoppers give appeal boost

A LIFEBOAT charity raised more than £500 thanks to the generosity of shoppers in Stourbridge.

Members of the town's RNLI branch held a flag day in the town centre on Saturday and raised a total of £521.

Branch chairman Chris Fonteyn said: "The generosity of Stourbridge shoppers was again apparent and a very worthwhile and welcome sum was collected."

Telling story of cemetery

HISTORIANS are preparing to tell the story of Lye and Wollescote Cemetery during its 130-year history.

A new guided tour will be taking place at the event, in Cemetery Road site on Saturday at 11pm and 2pm.

It will be led by authors Jean Weston and Marlene Price, who wrote a book detailing its history.

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Express & Star

Joy as Robert wins fight for £50k fund to aid walking

A MAN who lost all his limbs through meningitis has won his battle for funding for a new £50,000 pair of prosthetic legs.

Robert Parsons, aged 29, had recently managed to start walking for the first time since his illness.

But he said his current legs were unstable. He had fallen over and injured himself a number of times and applied for new legs with special knee joints to help him walk around.

But his request was turned down by NHS Dudley as he was not seen as an "exceptional case".

But the case, which was highlighted in the Express & Star, has since been reconsidered and the decision reversed.

Mr Parsons said: "I'm delighted and I'm so grateful for all the support I received - people were coming up to me and telling me to keep going."

Walking

"I really think it has helped to raise the issue."

"These new legs are so much better - they actually feel like real legs when I'm walking about."

Mr Parsons, of Shenstone Avenue, Norton, Stourbridge, was just 19 and previously healthy when he had the amputations after contracting blood poisoning through a complication of meningitis.

Thousands of pounds were raised in just weeks from donations by members of the public - and that has been used in recent years to kit out Mr Parsons's home and buy him a specially adapted car.

In the last 11 years he has battled to improve his mobility and reached a milestone in January by managing to walk around for long periods of time.

But he struggled to walk up kerbs and on uneven sur-



Meningitis victim Robert Parsons with the new £50,000 prosthetic legs

faces, which has left him "embarrassed" when he has fallen over in public.

NHS Dudley spokeswoman Lindsey Harding said: "At the time this case was first considered the PCT did not have all of the supporting evidence to demonstrate exceptionality for Mr Parsons."

"On receipt of their evidence the case was reconsidered and approved by the exceptional treatment approval panel, based on the clinical evidence received."

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Health chiefs reveal the vision for £6m complex

PLANS for a £6 million health centre in Lye have been lodged with council chiefs.

NHS Dudley has been drawing up the designs for the complex which will be built on land between Clinic Drive and Jackson Street.

A new image showing what the centre will look like when work is completed have been released by Dudley NHS.

It would house the Limes Surgery in High Street and the Pedmore Road Surgery which would relocate to the centre along with the Health for Lyfe shop.

There would also be treatment rooms for physiotherapy, podiatry, speech and language therapy.

Midwifery and community nursing teams and counselling services would be based on site, with space outside for a mobile breast screening unit.

Plans for the development have been submitted to Dudley Council and health bosses hope the centre will be open by August 2013.

A decision on whether to grant planning permission for the scheme will be made within the next two months.

The development, which has been in the pipeline for more than two years, has been welcomed by Councillor



An artist's impression of how the £6 million health centre in Lye will look

Adrian Turner, who says it will be a "big boost" for Lye. "It is a positive development not just for Lye but the whole area," he said.

"I think this will help to bring back more retail businesses to Lye. "It will really help to regenerate Lye so that the high street is bustling again."

The complex would be similar to the £26m health and social centre in

Venture Way, Brierley Hill, and the £8m complex in John Corbett Drive, Stourbridge.

Dudley Council planned to offer social care services from the centre, but pulled out of the project last year due to a lack of funds. Plans for a £3m health centre in Pensnett offering a GP surgery and specialist treatments are also being drawn up.

School to hold reunion Tea for business women

FORMER pupils who went to a Stourbridge school in the late 1970s are being sought for a reunion.

The High Park School get-together will be held at the Royal Oak Pub, opposite the football ground on May 12.

Andy Houlston, who is one of the organisers, said: "It will have been 43 years since leaving school in 1978, so some of us will be 50 this year and many have not seen each other since leaving. The response has been good so far with people coming from as far as Plymouth and Ireland."

For further details and to reserve tickets, Andy can be contacted on 07835721144.

A "GLAMOROUS" women's business group will be holding an afternoon tea party at a stately home near Stourbridge for its next meeting.

Members of GLAM (Girls Lunching and Meeting) will be at Hagley Hall on May 17 at 2.30pm.

During the meeting Kate Oliver, head of events at Hagley Hall, will speak about the stately home and the services it offers.

GLAM is organised by Quality Solicitors Talbots and any women interested in attending should email marketing@talbotslaw.co.uk by May 10.

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We will be using fresh fruit and herbs from local suppliers and our own house made sugar gommies, syrups and purees. There will also be a large selection of wines and champagnes available along with non-alcoholic mixology cocktails. 'High end' spirits will be available and offered by our highly trained staff.

Glass cocktail lounge will be opening its doors 8.30pm Thursday the 3rd of May. if you would like to be put on the guest list please inbox Glass Cocktail lounge on Facebook



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Youngsters at centre stage for charity

YOUNG members of a Black Country drama group staged their own charity performance showcase on Sunday.

Around 30 people aged between seven and 20 from Dramaworkshop, which is based in Stourbridge, came together to create their own show to help raise money for charity Children with Cancer. Many have already found

success securing roles on television shows opposite actors such as Neil Morrissey, while others have starred in stage productions.

They performed a series of drama scenes including Shakespeare alongside contemporary comedy and their own sketches.

The fun took place at Hagley Com-

munity Centre, off Worcester Road, and involved made up of the group's older members who are 11 to 18 years old.

For more information of the organisation take a look at www.esdramaworkshop.co.uk

Dramaworkshop is linked to First Act Workshops in Birmingham.

Designer glassware is fit for Queen's Jubilee



Barbara Beadman with one of the special limited pieces

EXQUISITE glassware handcrafted in Stourbridge has been created to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

And craftsmen are hoping the bespoke pieces will go from the town's world-renowned glass quarter to take pride of place at Buckingham Palace.

They have been designed by Barbara Beadman, of Tudor Crystal, with expert glass blowers cutters polishers and engravers working to create the final pieces.

The English lead crystal goblet and sugar shaker have been months in the planning.

But already orders are coming in for the limited edition pieces ahead of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Mrs Beadman said: "I'm really pleased with how they have turned out."

On the front of the goblet and sugar shaker is the crown and the words 'The Queen's Diamond Jubilee 1952 to 2012'.

Mrs Beadman said they have applied to the Lord Chamberlain's office to see if the pieces could be sent to the Queen.

Thieves take keys to car

RAIDERS stole the keys to a high-powered car in a burglary in Stourport - then abandoned the vehicle in Stourbridge.

Police are appealing for witnesses about the burglary, which happened between midnight last Tuesday in Dunley Road.

Offenders entered the house and stole two designer handbags and the keys to the owner's car, before driving off in the black BMW M3 (registration number F7 HUG).

The car was found in Trefoil Gardens, Stourbridge, at about 3pm on Tuesday. To help call 0300 333 3000 or Crimestoppers.



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Pigeons feeding outside Charles' loft which was near to Bilston Fire Station



The Dicken medal awarded to brave animals



A model of Winkie the first pigeon to receive the Dicken medal

Lofty status for the pigeons that were bred for racing

A BLACK COUNTRY man's fancy, more often than not, was a pigeon, with local men in the late 19th and early 20th century cooing sweet nothings over their birds.

Pigeon keeping was a popular pastime in the Black Country, not only for the sport of racing but also as a source of extra meat and eggs.

Pigeon fanciers lavished attention on their feathered friends in the hope they hatched into champion racers or bred a much-prized pedigree "squeaker", and brightly painted pigeon lofts were a distinctive feature of the landscape.

Top of the pigeon-fancying pecking order was Charles Purslow who achieved celebrity-status in Bilston pigeon flying circles.

Over a 70 year period his flock won an array of awards. Mr Purslow knew all his birds by name, his favourites being those

who won the most races and two of his favourites were "Peggy" and "Bilston Blue". He would often take his tea up to the loft and wait all day for the birds to return.

For almost 100 years Charles' pigeon loft nestled next to Bilston Fire Station, which is now alongside the Black Country Route, housing around 30 birds.

Charles used to race on the southern circuit, which he preferred as this included channel crossing races.

Later the club changed to flying on the north circuit. They would start short training races from March, taking the pigeons on

the transporter on a Friday for the start of the race on Saturday. The winner of the race would then be announced on Saturday night.

Mr Purslow was also a member of the national pigeon service during the war, in which the birds were used to take messages into occupied territory.

Clare Weston, Curator of Domestic and Cultural Life said: "Charles' flock did its bit for the war effort. During the Second World War his pigeons were conscripted as messenger birds, along with 20,000 other pigeons, into the AIF Pigeon Service."

There were 32 pigeons awarded the Dicken Medal, the animal Victoria Cross, for gallantry or devotion during the Second World War. The first recipients of the award, in December 1943, were three pigeons, serving with the Royal Air Force.

So next time you're in the garden, take another look at that pigeon on your bird table - his ancestor may well have changed the course of history.



by Black Country Living Museum's Fiona Carding



Charles Purslow's and his Pigeon Loft, prior to its move to Black Country Living Museum



An early 20th century trophy, won by Charles Purslow and by his father before him

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LETTERS

thechronicle

Insensitive views on parenting

I AM writing regarding Mr Brian Saunders comments in last weeks chronicle.

I am a lesbian, in a committed and stable civil partnership and I have to say I am not interested in the argument as to whether to legalise "gay marriage", as it merely seems to be a matter of semantics.

I consider myself to be married in the truest sense of the word. I have made a deep and lasting commitment to my partner for as long as we live.

The views expressed by you are insensitive to many apart from homosexual couples, especially with regard to your view that because gay couples

cannot naturally procreate, their life is meaningless and has no future.

How insulting this is to infertile couples, young widows and widowers, couples who have chosen never to have children, not to mention those who have chosen celibacy.

Would you also claim that these peoples lives have no future because they have chosen or are unable to live within the social "norm" of your nuclear family model?

Who are you to decide that our lives are a "dead end" with no meaning?

Quite apart from this, the desire to parent and form a family is not exclu-

sive to heterosexual couples.

My partner and myself are in the final stages of the adoption process, and have been assessed by social services and the courts as being able to provide the safe and stable home you describe.

The sad fact is, that although our children initially had a mother and a father, they never experienced safe, loving, or supportive parenting and unfortunately, they have suffered significant harm because of this. Simply being heterosexual or being married does not automatically make one a good parent.

Name and address supplied

Same sex marriages as good as any other

IN response to Brian Saunders letter (April 19).

I have to disagree that a marriage between a man and a woman is the best environment to raise children.

I fail to understand how he thinks a Marriage between same sex couples will sabotage our society more than a "straight marriage". Same sex couples have shown they are capable of raising a loving family and have more experience about teaching their children to value diversity and appreciate other people's beliefs.

Trying to ban "gay marriage" is just another sign homophobia still exists and has chosen to rebrand itself among people who refuse to treat other men and woman such as myself as equals.

STE BARKER
Halesowen

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Claims on NHS from Tories misleading

THE TORIES lay the misleading claim, that despite radical changes to the NHS, it will still be "free at the point of use". Less is said about the fact that not all services, currently free, will be available.

Some services are already furtively being listed as not necessary on the grounds of being either "cosmetic" or "ineffective". Croydon has a catalogue of 34 procedures, which don't have to be offered to patients. These include knee, hip and cataract surgery.

Services may be restricted or denied, despite GP referral for treatment. Vetting procedures are carried out by privately run companies - "referral gateways" - before a patient is allowed or not, to visit a hospital consultant.

Much depends upon the company's assessment, as to who is allowed through the gateway. The procedure is growing in parts of the country. This government is moving, by stealth, to a market health care system. Public indifference and obliviousness are two factors to be overcome, if the NHS is to remain free and accessible.

EDWARD DAVIES, Cobden Street, Stourbridge

Singles forgotten by all the politicians

It seems to me as a single person that all political talk and issues are aimed at "the family".

It is the "family" that is of great concern to politicians, it is the "family" that is suffering hard times at the moment, it is the "family" that is having to struggle. What a load of nonsense!

Never, ever, do you hear how single people are struggling financially and they are seldom spoken of by politicians.

Single people make up a lot of society, they pay taxes, pay VAT, they work hard and are completely forgotten. Single people in their millions in the UK need to use their vote - against the parties who use 'family' as a political vote winner.

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Schools have chance of trip to Science Museum

SCHOOLS in Stourbridge will have the chance to win a VIP trip to the Science Museum in London before the end of term as part of a newly-launched education competition.

The competition, which is being run by and EducationCity.com, offers one school class a whole day visit to the museum and the chance to experience some fun limited-offer science activities.

Britannica and EducationCity.com will also provide up to £500 to the winning school in travel expenses.

Schools from Stourbridge can enter by signing up to a free trial of Primary Britannica, where they will be entered into a prize draw, which will be made on 27th July 2012, with the winning school being contacted in

the new academic year. The competition has been launched to celebrate a strategic partnership between Britannica and EducationCity.com.

Ian Grant, Managing Director of Encyclopaedia Britannica: "We are delighted to launch this exciting competition for schools in Stourbridge and we're certain that every class will be keen to win a trip to the Science Museum. We're also proud that through our partnership with EducationCity.com, we'll be able to provide all schools – not just the winner of this competition – with world-class educational resources."

Wedding reception row led to punch in the face

A WEDDING guest who punched his friend at the reception, leaving him with a fractured eye socket and cheekbone, has been jailed for 15 months.

Jamie Smith also suffered cuts to his forehead and lip when he was attacked by Ian Haynes at Bromley & Pensnett Liberal Club in Dudley.

Haynes, aged 38, of Lesley Drive, Kingswinford, admitted inflicting

grievous bodily harm when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Gary Smith, prosecuting, said Haynes threw the punch after Mr Smith took hold of his shoulders following an argument.

The injuries led to him losing his job as a supervisor as he had to miss four weeks of work, the court heard.

Judge Michael Dudley told Haynes: "He fell and caught his face on the way down, probably on railings. But that

was not the end of the incident. You hit him again, and he undoubtedly suffered a very serious injury. The after-effects are still with him."

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, said Mr Smith was now leading a normal life and the effect of the injuries had not been as bad as was originally feared.

Judge Dudley said alcohol had clearly played a part in the offence "as far as both parties were concerned".

Sale will be charity help

A NEARLY-NEW sale of baby clothes, toys and equipment is to be held in the Black Country.

It has been organised by the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the parents charity NCT.

The session will take place on May 19 at Leasowes Leisure Centre, Kent Road, Halesowen.

The sale will run from 10.30am until 12.30.

For further information about the charity or the sale of baby bargains take a look at the website <http://www.nct.org.uk/branches/stourbridge-halesowen>

Write way forward



Coachhouse Writers Group member Mike Michell, with back, from left, fellow member Roger Noons, festival publicity officer Paul Jenkins, member Keith Radburn and organiser Mark Williams

BUILDING writers can showcase their flare for the written word as part of an arts festival in Stourbridge this summer. Smartfest 2012 is a new event celebrating the best in music, performance, arts, dance and drama in the town.

And as part of the three-day event in August, there will also be a literature festival bringing top talent to Stourbridge.

The literary festival will be held at St Thomas' church hall, Market Street, on August 10.

It will be led by Dr Paul Collins, a local historian and broadcaster, who will host talks with different authors during the day.

There will be secondhand book stalls, book signings, a creative writing forum and refreshments available.

Organisers are also staging two competitions. One is a writing contest organised by the Stourbridge-based Coachhouse Writers Group.

People can submit poems up to 40 lines long and prose up to 2,000 words in length by the deadline of June 9.

There will also be a Poetry Slam at The Mitre pub, Lower High Street, where people can perform their own work on stage.

Fairytale of a Disney trip for travel agent

A TRAVEL consultant from Thomas Cook in Merry Hill has been chosen as one of 20 people from the UK to become an ambassador for Disneyland Paris.

Victoria Martin, who works at the store in Merry Hill Shopping Centre, entered a nationwide search launched by the French theme park to find travel consultants to represent Disneyland Paris in the UK.

The search is part of its 20th birthday celebrations and includes an all expenses paid three-day trip to Disneyland Paris to familiarise the ambassadors with the new features and events that are planned for the birthday celebrations.

Victoria will get a first peak at the new spectacular night time show with Peter Pan, set to the backdrop of Sleeping Beauty's Castle.

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thechronicle

Kickabouts to pull in adults

FOOTBALL sessions will be held at a Stourbridge school as part of a national campaign. A Just Play Centre has been set up at Redhill School and a kickabout session will take place on Wednesdays from 7pm to 8pm for people over the age of 16.

The partnership aims to help get 150,000 more people playing football for at least 30 minutes per week by September 2013.

Redhill School Sports Centre organiser Matthew Taylor said: "The kickabouts are open to all adults of all abilities."

For more information, email mtaylor@redhill.dudley.sch.uk

Firm celebrates end of biggest order



Works Manager David Cook with the plate leveling machine

A MANUFACTURING business split between sites in Stourbridge and Kingswinford has completed its biggest ever order.

A £500,000, 6mm plate leveller was ordered by Evans and White Manufacturing in September by German group Klockner for its ASD Metal Services business in Durham.

Evans and White held an open day last week at its premises in Dawley Brook Road, Kingswinford, to show off the completed machine and its new manufacturing facilities.

These include computer numerically controlled machinery.

The plate leveller began its journey

to ASD – one of the biggest independent steel distributors – last Thursday.

Works manager David Cook said: "It has been a challenging project but it has involved learning a lot and has been an enjoyable process."

"We pooled our experience of machine building and design of steel processing equipment with the practical knowledge of ASD's metal service flat products directors and maintenance personnel," he explained.

"The machine has been designed to cater for the every changing steel environment with higher yield materials for the automotive and construction sectors, and flatter and fully stable material for laser cutting and automated processes, and to the environmental efficiencies of taking larger

coils from the mill to reduce steel miles and scrap wastages."

Many of the parts were made at the 12,000sq ft works in Canal Street, Stourbridge, with the final machine put together at Kingswinford.

The controls and drive systems were designed and built by BES controls in its Brierley Hill factory using touch screen and process control software and the machine move and installation will be carried out by JAC Engineering Services, from Dudley.

Evans and White, which has been going for 56 years, employs 20 people at its two sites. It took on two extra staff for the contract, including an apprentice, and plans to take on two further staff as it gears up to win new orders.

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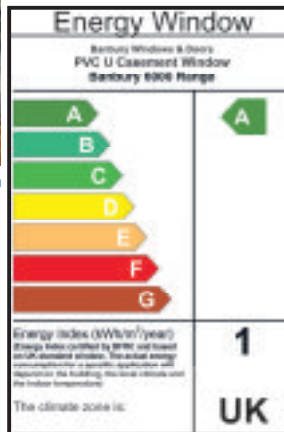
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Model day out at rail exhibition



Cradley Heath Model Railway Club founder Doug Grazier with the US Four Corners layout

MORE than 1,100 people made tracks to a Black Country railway exhibition in Stourbridge.

Visitors to the Bonded Warehouse were entertained by model trains running around 12 different layouts. There were also demonstrations for families as well as trade stands for enthusiasts to stock up on parts.

The event, which is in its 24th year, was organised by the Stourbridge Railway Society. Money raised from the exhibition will go towards improvement work at the Bonded Warehouse site in Canal Street.

Chris Dyche, aged 68, one of the organisers, said: "We had more than 1,100 people through the doors which for a small society like ours is really good. The weather was on our side and many people came out to see us."

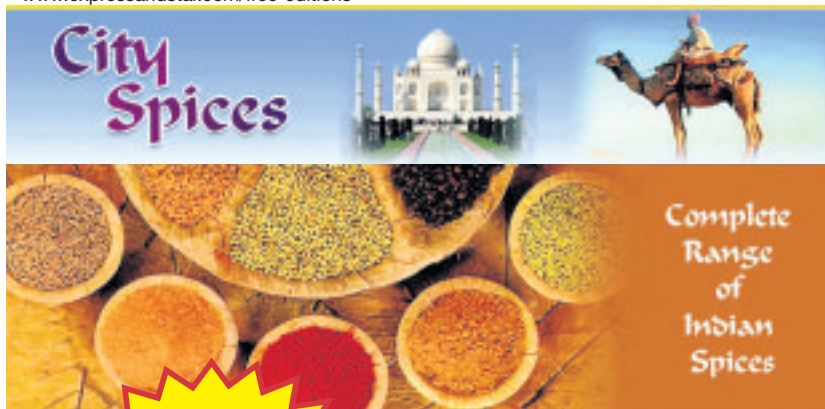
"It was an excellent event and we are already getting ready for our next one which will be our 25th. Overall, we are extremely pleased."

Opera show to help lifeboat operation

AN OPERATIC show aims to raise funds for a volunteer lifeboat crew who work on a craft named in honour of a Stourbridge couple.

Gilbert and Sullivan's Savoy Operas will be showcased at Stourbridge Town Hall, off Market Street, on May 25 at 7.30pm. The event has been organised by the Stourbridge branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. Proceeds will go to a volunteer crew based in New Quay, Wales.

The crew's boat is dedicated to Frank and Lena Clifford who used to live in Coventry Street. They were the main donors to the RNLI to buy the lifeboat in 1992. But now the crew need to replace their lifejackets and are seeking donations. Tickets cost £14. Call 01384 812812 for details.



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Mixed Mutton 3 Baby Chickens Big Chicken (skin on) Chicken Wings Cod Fish	£4.99/kg £10.00 99p/lb £2.18/kg 99p/lb £2.18/kg £4.99/kg		Chicken Drums Chicken Legs (skin off) Chicken Niblets 6 Packs Panga Fish	99p/lg £2.18/kg 99p/lb £2.18/kg 99p/lb £2.18/kg £10.00
Fantasia 18 Pack 2 for £5	East End Mango Juice 2 for £1.50	Sun Pride Tropical Juice 12 x 1ltr £3.99 49p each	Blossom Hill/ Echo Falls Red/White 3 for £10	Coca Cola 3ltr £1.99
Almonds East End 800g £3.99	Lentils 2kg 2 for £4	Semolina Fine/ Course 1.5kg 2 for £3	KTC Spices 400g £1.00	Napolina Pasta 67p
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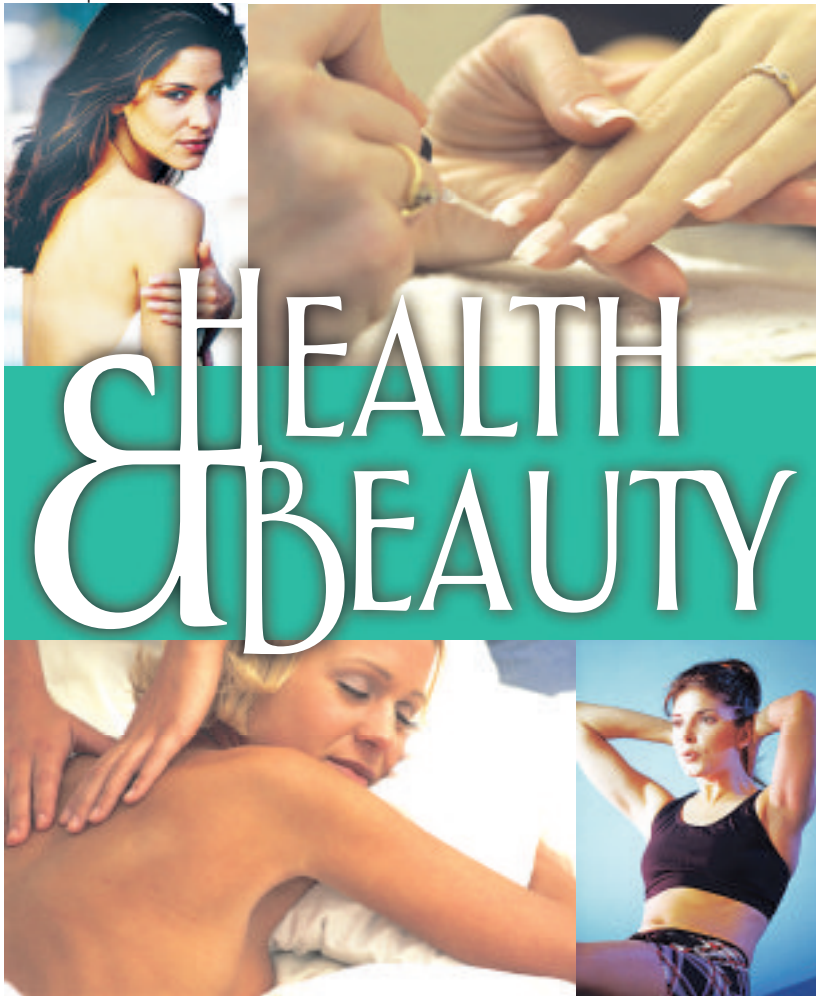
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HEALTH & BEAUTY



Stourbridge Lawn Tennis & Squash Club

OPEN DAY

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An ever increasing range of sports and leisure facilities means that there is something for everyone, regardless of age and ability whilst the rural location makes it a pleasure to visit all year round.

The venue boasts 14 tennis courts, 12 of which are floodlit, 6 of which have all weather surfaces. There are men's, ladies and mixed teams, plus regular social sessions as well as beginners' courses – and qualified coaches on hand to offer private or group tuition.

As well as the tennis facilities the club has 6 squash courts with a thriving squash and racketball section offering all standards of league play as well as social playing nights. Juniors play an important part in the club activities and weekly group sessions are available at no extra charge.

The gym has an extensive range of equipment with a full time Gym Manager on hand to give advice on training and diet.

The club boasts fabulous bar & social events including quizzes, salsa nights, discos, live bands and much more.

The club is holding an Open Day on Saturday 14th May from 11am to 4pm. Come along and discover for yourself what the club has to offer – there will be a wide variety of activities including exhibition matches, test the speed of your serve, a Racketball 12 hour playathon and a chance to hit with our coaches. An all day BBQ and the bar will provide you with all the refreshments you will need for a fun day. Everybody welcome.

Saturday 12th May 2012
11am-4pm
All Visitors Welcome

Cardio Tennis Session 1pm - 2pm
Mini Tennis (up to age 12) 11am - 12pm, 1pm - 2pm.
Squash & Racketball
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Hit with the Coaches
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Gym Clinics on Good Technique
All Day Barbeque
and Much, Much MORE
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Gym **Squash & Racketball**

Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, Sugarloaf Lane, Iwerley, Stourbridge, DY7 6PS

Tel: 01384 393613

www.stourbridge-tennis-squash.co.uk email: info@stourbridge-tennis-squash.co.uk




Welcome to our Dental Practice. Everything you need to know

Our Services

We are an NHS dental practice who also offer a full range of private treatments including sedation, cosmetic dentistry, bridges, crowns, veneers, implants, clearstep, tooth whitening, preventative care and all types of denture work. More detailed information for all these treatments is available on reception.

We have the services of a Dental Therapist Hygienist.

We are very sympathetic to anxious and nervous patients and also offer IV Sedation on a private basis.

We offer a full range of dental care products on which we would be pleased to give you advice.

Band 1 Course of Treatment - £17.00
This covers an examination, diagnosis (eg. X-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, a scale and polish if needed and application of fluoride varnish or fissure sealants. If you require urgent care, even if your urgent treatment needs more than the one appointment to complete, you will only need to pay the one band 1 charge.

Band 2 Course of Treatment - £47.00
This covers everything listed in Band 1 above, plus any further treatments such as fillings, root canal work on your dentist needs to take out one or more of your teeth.

Band 3 Course of Treatment - £204.00
This covers everything listed in Bands 1 and 2, plus crowns, dentures and bridges.

How to join the Practice

Joining the practice is really easy, all you have to do is call reception or come in and speak to one of our Receptionists. They will take some details from you and book your first appointment. Please do not be afraid to ask for a specific dentist and also mention if there is anything in particular you are interested in having information about.

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- Full Disabled Access • Free Parking • An accurate appointment system • Emergency appointments
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Monday	8.30 to 6.00	Thursday	8.30 to 7.30
Tuesday	8.30 to 6.00	Friday	8.30 to 6.00
Wednesday	8.30 to 6.00	Saturday	8.30 to 12.30

Reception is open during the lunch hour for general enquiries.

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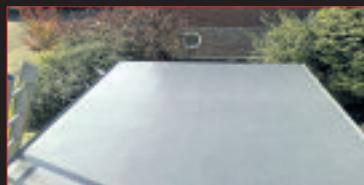
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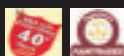


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thechronicle

COMPETITION

All the fun of the air at show

JUNE is always a special date in the diary of aircraft enthusiasts with all the fun of the air on offer at the Cosford Air Show. And the Chronicle has teamed up with the organisers to offer 12 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show on Sunday, June 17. The 2012 Air Show brings a variety of military and civilian air craft together to produce a spectacular five and a half hour display.

Featuring the wonders of the RAF Red Arrows and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, a role demonstration from the RAF's Tornado including pyrotechnics, the vintage pair Meteor and Vampire and the Royal Naval Historic Flight, just to name a few, this year's show is set to be one of the most exciting yet.

Experience first hand the training the RAF provides with demonstrations from the specialisations of Aeronautical Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Physical Training and Tri-service Photography, all part of the Defence College and Schools at RAF Cosford.

Exhibits

For those a little too young to join up, the RAF Air Cadets will be there to exhibit the many different opportunities available for teenagers with interactive displays and climbing walls. There will be fairground rides and sophisticated simulator rides and musical displays from the RAF Regiment Band and the Cosford Voluntary Band.

If you are looking for retail therapy you will be spoilt for choice with an indoor craft fair, plenty of market stalls and exhibits on the airfield and in our hangars as well as free entry to the RAF Museum.

Tickets will be £25 on the gate (only cash on the day), £20 in advance and free for children under 16 when accompanied by an adult. All major credit cards are accepted on the 24-hour ticket line: 0871 230 1083 (calls charged at 10p per min plus network charges).

Tickets are also available from the RAF Museum Cosford, Tourist Information Centres in Shrewsbury, Stoke, Stafford and Solihull and in Mid Counties Co-Operative stores. For full information go to www.cosfordairshow.co.uk or call 0844 561 1897



Show will feature a display by the breathtaking Red Arrows



Eurofighter Typhoon (above left) and Spitfires will make an appearance



HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning answer this question:

Which 2012 display will include the use of pyrotechnics?

Send answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Air Show Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, May 10. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Entrants must be 18 or over

star★extra TRAVEL



MUSEUM & TOUR



Manchester United
Museum & Stadium Tour

from
£39.95pp*

Day excursion, Saturday 30 June 2012

Enjoy a visit behind the scenes of Old Trafford, home to one of the biggest football clubs in the world. From the dizzy heights of the North Stand, to the atmosphere soaked players' dressing room, every moment will seem to carry the roar of 76,000 fans in your ears - none more so than the ultimate honour of emerging from the tunnel and following in the footsteps of so many legendary reds.

Price includes:

- Admission to the Manchester United Museum & Stadium Tour
- Return coach travel from Dudley, Walsall & Wolverhampton

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*Please note: a discount of £4 per child from the adult price of £39.95pp applies to all children aged 5-15 years old inclusive at the date of entry to the Museum & Stadium Tour.

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Thursday 10 May 2012
5.00pm-7.00pm

at West Midland Safari Park,
Spring Grove House, Spring Grove,
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The new skills and entrepreneurial Academy opening in September 2012, will specialise in a range of Creative, Digital, Gaming, 3D Animation, Fashion and Retail, Entrepreneurship, Food Processing and Catering courses. Students can find out more about the Academy at this interactive event and take part in practical activities including:

The Samsung Experience (enhanced learning in science and technology)

Working with the Android mobile App

A crime scene investigation - who killed Jane Doe?

Serious Gaming - Augmented Reality and 3D Worlds in video gaming

Steganography - the art of espionage

What happens to deleted files?

The Dubstep jigsaw

Cabin fever!

Boom or Bust? The magic of numbers

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Straight thinking!

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Commercial Feature



Create your own catwalk experience and capture it on camera

Learn tomorrow's technology today at new Academy

CUTTING edge technology and a cutting edge imagination are what the future of education is all about.

Whether it's creating your own Android App, using equipment that produces DNA fingerprinting or building a virtual computer and video games environment, the learning possibilities are endless and will soon be right on your doorstep courtesy of the new Academy at Kidderminster.

In anticipation of the September launch, these cutting edge applications in technology and the creative industries will be available for 14-19 year-olds to explore at Ready Teci Go; a special event taking place on Thursday 10 May between 5 and 7pm at Spring Grove House, Bewdley.

Innovative

Potential Academy learners and their family and friends can explore new worlds full of the latest innovative technology and discover a whole new learning experience that fulfils their career ambitions.

Tony Dennant, Head of the Academy commented: "The scientists, engineers, designers and artists of the future will all need to have received training of the very best standard in order to be successful; and it's that kind of training that The Academy at Kidderminster will be providing to 1,000 learners from across the region.

Activities taking place at Ready Teci Go include an introduction to the Samsung Experience Academy. 3D technologies can be explored in depth by discovering how a SMART LED TV works and how the internet operates in an ever increasing wireless world.

"Ready Teci Go is just a taste of what the Academy is about, with activities that will appeal to everyone planning on going on to further education who wants to see where their future careers can take them."

With entrepreneurship being a



CSI Investigation - see what forensic science technology reveals to the experts

major source of learning at the new Academy, prospective learners can find out more about how stock market trends and statistics can turn some people into millionaires and others into successful, independent financial advisors and accountants. Scientists-in-

the-making can look at crime scene investigation, learn about molecular structure or practice the art of code

breaking in the form of some exciting espionage-style tactics.

With the creative industries continuing to thrive across the UK, fashion design, visual merchandising and commercial photography will also be a big attraction at the event. Aspiring artists and designers can try their hand at experimental pattern cutting and design, style a model for a camera shoot or create a window display.

The Academy at Kidderminster based at Weavers Wharf is a partnership between Birmingham Metropolitan College and Kidderminster College.

It will deliver a full range of qualifications in retail and visual merchandising, understanding enterprise and entrepreneurship, computer games development, 3D animation and electronics. Food Preparation and hospitality courses will also be supported by onsite amenities including a cafeteria/bistro outlet.

For details about Ready Teci Go visit (or to book free transport) visit www.kidderminster2012.co.uk



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thechronicle

Helpful hospital workers heralded in roll of honour

OYEZ! A new roll of honour has been launched by a town crier – heralding exceptional work by hospital staff who have won praise from their patients.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has created the roll to honour staff who have gone beyond the call of duty.

The first six individuals and teams of staff to be recorded on the list, were announced loudly when Sandwell Town Crier Adrian Holmes rang his bell in the entrance to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

The scroll, chosen from staff identified in some of the hundreds of compliments and "thank you" letters received by the hospital every year, will be updated regularly. Chief executive Paula Clark said those on it were a "fabulous bunch".

Among them was Liz Hill, ward clerk on B2 at the hospital, who often literally goes an extra mile by cycling to return possessions left behind by patients.

"I once took a walking stick back on my bike," said Miss Hill, aged 38, who cycles to work from her home in Kingswinford.

Miss Hill, aged 38, recently had her bike stolen from the rack at the hospital's main entrance but now has a new one after a well-wisher saw her story in the Express & Star.

Also on the roll are: The midwives on the maternity unit, who have been praised by a patient for their "life enhancing experience, support, care and understanding".

Consultant breast and general surgeon Mr Vijay Ganesh was honoured for his "extremely kind and professional support".

Others mentioned include general surgery outpatient nursing staff and Sister Angela Wheeler.

Fire at former factory

FIREBUGS sparked a blaze in rubbish in a disused building at a former factory near Stourbridge.

Two fires had been set in the offices of the former Globe Works on the corner of Stourvale Road and Bromley Street, Lye, at about 6.15 last night.

Heads up to best of beers



Enjoying a drink are friends James Thompson, Luke Johnson, Rebecca Whelan with brother David and Daniel Ashmore at the front

MORE than 2,000 real ale fans packed out Stourbridge Town Hall over three days for a popular annual beer festival.

Visitors were able to choose from around 100 beers and ciders at the 15th annual town Beer Festival.

At the end of the festival on Saturday only a small amount of ale remained as drinkers finished off

most of the beers on offer. The event was organised by members of the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of Camra who said it had been an enormous success.

More than 200 more people turned out than expected to the event which has grown to become one of the largest annual traditions in the town.

star★extraTRAVEL

ROYAL ASCOT on LADIES DAY

Royal Ascot on Ladies Day is a great day at the races and an odds-on favourite fashion extravaganza.

Attended by the Queen, Ascot is the premier sporting and social event in the summer calendar and one of the world's most famous race meetings, where tradition, pageantry, fashion and style come together in a glorious setting.

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star★extraTRAVEL

Andre Rieu and The Johann Strauss Orchestra

at The O2 Arena

The Waltz King of Europe is returning to the UK with his Orchestra to perform in concert at The O2 Arena in London.

Acknowledged as one of the world's greatest living musical legends, Dutch-born Andre Rieu was classically trained, and is now an accomplished violinist, an excellent conductor and a truly remarkable showman.

With his orchestra, choir and soloists, he brings a delightful and innovative approach to his concerts, recreating the atmosphere of 19th Century Viennese dance halls, where audiences sway with the music, hum along and even dance in the aisles – it all happens!

During the concert you will hear music from across the star's repertoire, from his first album, 'Strauss & Co' to his latest release, 'And the Waltz Goes On'. It will be a truly wonderful experience that you'll remember for years to come.

December 16-17
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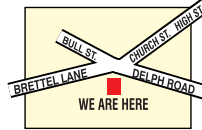
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Thursday 31 May 2pm

We'll Meet Again

Diamond Jubilee show

Tuesday 19 June 2pm

Phantom and the Musicals

Tuesday 18 September 2pm

Chris Smith's 5 Star Swing Band

Tuesday 16 October 2pm

The Good Old Days

of Music Hall & Variety

Thursday 25 October 3pm HALF TERM FUN

Ben: Michael Jackson tribute

Saturday 27 October 3pm HALF TERM FUN

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Tuesday 6 November 2pm

Rolling back the years

by Timeless Theatre Productions

Tuesday 27 November 2pm

Malcolm Stents Song of Praise

Tuesday 11 December 2pm

Too Darn Hot Showtime Christmas Special

EVENING SHOWS

Saturday 12 May 8pm

Northern Soul & Motown Night

with DJs Woody, Ginger Taylor, Mark

Freeman, Ted Massey, Ian Gee and Yocky

Friday 18 May 8pm

Jimmy Carr Gagging Order

Saturday 9 June 8pm

Dave Gorman

Power Point Presentation

Saturday 29 September 8pm

Northern Soul & Motown Night

Monday 22 October 8pm

Greg Davies

The Back of My Mum's Head

Saturday 8 December 7.30pm

Roy G Hemmings Philadelphia

and Mowtown

Saturday 13 April 2013 7.30pm

Dave Spikey

Stourbridge Town Hall

Tuesday 30 October 8pm

Neil Innes Short stories, tall songs

Saturday 10 November 1pm

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CLUB NEWS

thechronicle

**Bowling
shield is
presented**

PELSALL 'E' TOWNSWOMEN

THE annual Federation Dinner was again held at the Terrace Restaurant, Brownhills. Members enjoyed a delicious meal and the usual lively roll call of the 16 guilds forming the South Staffordshire Federation.

Margaret Worrall and Flora Petty were presented with the Federation Bowls Shield by chairman Shirley Aulton. Entertainment was by Lisa Jayne Smith as 'Marie Lloyd', a late substitute for the absent speaker.

Bridgemere Garden World and Dagfields Craft & Antique Centre were ideal locations for a trip on a dull, showery April day.

The formal part of the meeting on April 19 concluded with the presentation of a certificate and badge to Brenda Dyke in recognition of 25 years membership.

Jim Wall of Bloxwich Research & Metal Detecting Club was an enthusiastic speaker. The competition for the most popular metal ornament was won by Irene Williams and Shirley Chester. Angela Lawrence won the raffle.

The next Lunch Club meeting is on May 29 at Essington Fruit Farm. De-tails from Margaret Tolley on 01922 684647.

There is no official meeting on May 17. Members will be at the guild's 49th birthday dinner at the Beverley Hotel in Walsall.

Guest keeps his Witts about him



From left; Gloria Crannage, chairman Jane Emery, Chris Witts and Greta Fellows

CHAIRMAN Jane Emery welcomed members to the April meeting and introduced Chris Witts who gave a most interesting insight into the history of the River Severn, from the working barges carrying grain to present day cruisers.

The Vote of thanks was given by Jeanette Babb. Members were reminded to choose their menu for the celebration Royal Jubilee lunch at Patshull Park in June with enter-

CAMEO LADIES

tainment by Maggie O'Hara. The next meeting on Monday May 14, will feature a bring & buy for the "Coffee & Cream" charity. It is at the Mercure Goldthorn Hotel and will also feature a talk on the history of Bournville.

For further information contact 01902 844836 or 330727.

Speaker earns her crust

HEDNESFORD A TWG

restaurant, Brownhills was a very good evening. Entertainment was provided by Marie Lloyd.

Glynnis Gayton, with 'Our Daily Bread' told members at the April 2

meeting of the history of the five generations of her bakery and read out humorous entries from her grandfather's diary written during the war years.

On May 14 Margaret Key will give a talk about Sister Dora. A mystery tour with lunch takes place two days later.

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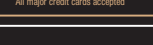
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Celebrations as wedding couple mark diamond day

A COUPLE who have dedicated their lives to helping others in the Black Country are celebrating their diamond wedding.

Throughout their marriage Betty and John Shorthouse, of Kingswinford, have been heavily involved in voluntary and charity work for causes including Sandwell Hospital Radio and the Sandwell Cancer Research Campaign fundraising committee.

They first met when, after completing his national service with the Royal Engineers in Malaya and Singapore in 1948 and 1949, Mr Shorthouse, now 82, joined the office staff at printing company Manifoldia in West Bromwich.

He caught the eye of Mrs Shorthouse, now 80, who was already working at the firm and love blossomed for the pair.

Yoga

They were married at Christ Church in West Bromwich on March 29 1952 and have been by each other's sides ever since. Mr Shorthouse continued to work at the printing firm rising to the position of sales manager before moving to another printing company and retiring in 1994.

Mrs Shorthouse took up yoga at the age of 40 and worked as a teacher for the adult education departments at Sandwell Council and Birmingham City Council. She retired at 66. The couple have two children – Ian, 53, and Simon, 49, and three grandchildren.

Mrs Shorthouse said the secret of a long and happy marriage was “hard work, give and take and above all love.”

The couple's voluntary work also includes parent teacher associations at Lodge Estate Primary and George Salter High schools in West Bromwich.

They were founding members of the Sandwell Cancer Research Campaign fundraising committee.



John and Betty Shorthouse celebrate their diamond anniversary

Examples of best embroidery on show

THERE is still time for visitors to see an impressive craft display in the Black Country.

Stourbridge Embroiderers' Guild's 35th anniversary exhibition is on at Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley and is a showcase of all aspects of hand and machine embroidery including crewel work, needlepoint, cross stitch, textile art and mixed media.

The Stourbridge Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild was formed in 1977. Their original aim, which they shared with the guild nationally was to create a group which would promote and encourage the art of embroidery and related textile crafts. The exhibition runs until May 27.

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thechronicle

Firm spins in to boost school disco fundraiser

YOUNG entrepreneurs in Stourbridge helping fellow pupils in need have been given a £500 boost by an independent Hagley finance team.

Origin Finance, which moved to new offices in Hagley this year, encouraged pupils at Oldswinford Hospital School in their fundraising disco - by promising to donate £1 for every £2 they generated.

Students raised £1,000, so will be able to make a £1,500 donation to help children at St John's Boarding School, Uganda.

A party of Oldswinford pupils will be visiting for a fortnight to experience the basic school life there and help spruce up the buildings.

Origin is already working with a growing number of local charities, with their expert advice saving them thousands of pounds in mortgage costs and interest charges.

Help

The firm's chief executive, Andrew Smith, whose 16-year-old son Sam will be joining the party to Uganda, said: "The pupils have used their entrepreneurship to help people less fortunate, and it reflected our work in supporting a growing number of charities."

"We wanted to give something back. Few families in Uganda can afford to give their children a proper education. It is good that our youngsters learn to help people who are vulnerable."

He presented the cheque to Oldswinford headmaster Peter Jones. He said: "Origin's donation will help our pupils to significantly support other students. We are



A boost for the fund raising at Oldswinford Hospital School as headmaster Peter Jones, centre, receives a £500 donation from Origin chief executive Andrew Smith, right, and Simon Williams, head of distribution

grateful for this vital encouragement from our local business community."

Origin's team provide protection and consultation to members of the whole family, as well as wealth management services to individuals and families seeking financial planning and investment advice. It is also sig-

nificantly increasing its financial support work for charities.

Simon Williams, distribution head at Origin, said: "A growing number of charity trustees are seeking our independent advice into investment and cash management, helping them to consider their options."

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Fans take closer look at £1m boat in record bid

thechronicle



Trevor Dean from Hagley, who took grandson Liam Allen to see the work

IT MAY not look seaworthy yet but this £1million powerboat being built in Dudley is just months away from a world record attempt.

Work is nearing completion on the 90ft long and 16ft wide boat, which is called Accomplish More. It has been completely handmade at Micklewrights Structures in Dudley after the firm was chosen by adventurer Alan Priddy. He hopes to beat the existing 61-day record for sailing around the world and is planning to set off with his team in November.

The team has spent recent weeks fitting out the interior of the vessel.

The hull shape was created from a frame to which aluminium plates have been shaped, reducing the build time and the amount of welding needed.

Mr Priddy said he wanted skilled metal workers to make the boat rather than boat builders.

The aluminium sheets for the powerboat, which will be bright red when finished, have been supplied by Blackburn Metals, based in nearby Kingswinford.

Mr Priddy, a 58-year-old engineer from Portsmouth, let visitors take a closer look at the boat. He said: "I am very pleased with how work is progressing. It has changed a lot recently particularly the inside. We have just about finished the technical engineering before we start the cosmetic work."

"Overall it is going very well and everyone is very excited."

Among those who visited the factory, which is on the Thornleigh Trading Estate, was Trevor Dean from Hagley, who took along nine-year-old grandson Liam Allen.

Keen photographer Mr Dean, aged 65, said he was impressed by its size.

"I think it is spectacular. It is going to look fantastic when it is completed. I read about the open day and decided to come along to take some pictures as it is something so unusual," he said.



Adventurer Alan Priddy standing by the powerboat Accomplish More

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Dancing with Strictly stars

An Evening with the Stars of Strictly Come Dancing, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

IT WAS billed as an evening with the stars of Strictly Come Dancing, but a highlight was Cannock couple Ian Powell and Melanie Babb.

The engaged couple joined five other pairs on stage and, as winners of the fun contest, were partnered by Katya Virshilas, and Pasha Kovalev. It was one of the many touches that made this such a wonderful night.

Children from the Class One Dance Academy gave a routine in either half, UK Showdance champions Lindsey Muckle and Ryan Hammond added their passion and energy to the show, while compere Mike Newman kept the evening ticking along.

Chemistry

But the stars of the show were undoubtedly Pasha and Katya. It is hard to believe the professionals have only known each other since last August when they first paired up for Strictly. Their chemistry and rapport was there for all to see and their dance moves – and costumes – flawless.

Of all the routines, my favourite was a replication of the foxtrot that Pasha performed with Chelsea Healey in last year's final.

The audience was invited to quiz the pair during a question-and-answer session and they stayed behind for photographs and to sign autographs.

Mark Shipp

Roxie and co ready to bring razzle dazzle to the Grand

WEST End and Broadway hit Chicago brings all that jazz to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this month.

Former soap stars Ali Bastian (Hollyoaks/The Bill) and Tupelo Dorgu (Coronation Street) go head to head as notorious man killers Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly in the sexy comedy-musical set in 1920s America.

Playing smooth-talking lawyer Billy Flynn is former EastEnders Stefan Booth and jailhouse 'mother' Mama Morton is played by Bernie Nolan, former lead singer of The Nolans and a finalist on TV's Popstar to Opera Star.

The show, featuring such songs as All That Jazz, Cell Block Tango and Razzle Dazzle, will be staged at the Lichfield Street theatre from May 14 to 19.

Grease

Meanwhile, Danny Zuko and his gang of high school greasers meet the Pink Ladies again in rock 'n' roll musical Grease, which is at Hanley's Regent Theatre (May 7 to 12). The Potteries port of call is the only Midlands date on the current tour. Skating star Robin Cousins plays Teen Angel.

Back at Wolverhampton, The Essence of Ireland tells of lovers divided by the ocean in a show drawing upon traditional Irish music and dance, plus pop favourites.

It is staged at Wolverhampton Grand on May 11 and 12.

Mark Shipp



Ali Bastian as Roxie Hart, Chicago's femme fatale

Civic hosts rock festival

A WHOLE rock festival is being squeezed into one afternoon and evening at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on June 10. Chazzstock, a charity fundraising festival in memory of singer Charles Haddon, was due to take place over a weekend in Leicestershire but hit licensing problems.

The Civic stepped in and The Horrors and The Vaccines will lead a nine band bill. Tickets cost £25. Doors are at 4pm and it's for music fans aged 14 and above. Call 0870 320 7000 or see www.wolvscivic.co.uk for tickets.

TV skaters sizzle in the ice arena

Dancing On Ice Live Tour, NIA, Birmingham

THE DANCING was so hot it was amazing it didn't melt the ice – and that was just the celebrities. It's hard to believe that most of them had probably only taken to the ice months earlier.

The transformation as you followed the TV Dancing On Ice series was incredible – from Bambi to show standard. And the ice tour which stopped off at Birmingham's NIA for three days on its UK tour was a perfect example of how they have all progressed.

One by one they took to the ice to show off their routines – many of them very familiar to TV followers. And turning up the heat was as usual Chico with his cheeky Sexy And I Know It routine.

Fans had a second chance to see the new Dancing on Ice winner Matthew Wolfenden, who again stole the top place from Jorgie Porter after the audience text vote. The text money goes to charity and the total over the years stands at well above £100,000.

Joining Matthew, Jorgie and Chico, were Olympic skier Chemmy Alcott, actress Jennifer Ellison, Coronation Street actor Andy Whyment, Sugababe Heidi Range and 2011 Dancing on Ice champion Sam Attwater.

The show stopper was the sizzling routine by professionals Matt Evers and Nina Ulanova and Vicky Ogden who danced as she spun a hula hoop of flames.

There was no compere this year, instead that was done by the stars Torvill and Dean and, in recognition of the Diamond Jubilee, they performed a special routine with Jayne in Union Jack dress.

Sue Attwater

Gorgeous harmonies

The Staves
Glee Club, Birmingham
EMILY, Camilla and Jessica, the sisters known as The Staves, are maturing musically and producing songs which touch the soul.

They played to a full Glee Club and could easily have doubled the length of the show as far as the appreciative audience was concerned, they just haven't as yet got enough material.

Opening with Icarus they showed straight away how smoothly and luxuriously their voices harmonise to produce a warm sound.

In terms of talented siblings they are as good as The Corrs regarding skill with their instruments, however, in terms of singing they have already surpassed them. Their first full album is eagerly awaited by fans. Until then they will have to make do with latest EP The Motherlode from which they sang Pay Us No Mind.

The highlight in terms of showcasing their voices was definitely Wisely and Slow which they sang mostly a cappella, filling the room with a gorgeous sound.

They were called back for two encores one of which was with their support act, Dutch singer Christof, who is definitely a talent to look out for on the folk circuit.

Danny Farragher

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CSI: NY

Channel 5, 10.20pm

In a world where gamers can win serious money for hitting buttons fast enough, it seems some of them will do anything to stay alert. That's the basis for this week's gritty slice of Big Apple action involving a few Austin Powers-style game-related gags. 'It looks like the game he was calling ended in sudden death,' quips Mac, with all the sensitivity of a man getting drunk at a funeral. CSI analysis reveals the drug boosts concentration, so when the crime-busters discover he was a referee in a high-stakes video-gaming tournament, they suspect he was killed for confiscating the illegal substance. Crime drama, starring Gary Sinise and Sela Ward.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc's Kitchen Secrets. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. Including a preview of the FA Cup final. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The concluding session of the first semi-final. **5.30** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities.

6.40 My Family. Susan is accused of sexual harassment at work. (R)

7.10 The Voice UK. The five acts in Jessie J and Danni O'Donoghue's teams sing live for the first time, and viewers help decide who stays in the competition as they vote for their favourites. The results can be seen tomorrow at 7.15pm.

8.40 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.30 Casualty. The police investigate the death of a nine-year-old boy. Guest with Georgia Henshaw

10.20 BBC News: Weather. **10.40** Have I Got a Bit More News for You. With guest host Jeremy Clarkson. (R)

11.25 Live at the Apollo. (R) National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's League One and League Two matches.

12.55 Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Film: The Cardinal. (1963) An idealistic priest encounters ethical dilemmas and racial bigotry as he rises through the ranks of the Catholic Church. Otto Preminger's drama, with Tom Tryon and Carol Lynley. **2.50** Film: Land of the Pharaohs. (1955) Historical drama, starring Jack Hawkins. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Flog It! **5.55** The Good Life. (R)

6.25 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring devises a cunning new way of foiling Hitler's invasion plans – but it results in Pike getting trapped in the middle of a minefield. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine and Rishi Persad present coverage of the fourth and concluding session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

9.30 I Love 1977. Star Wars actress Carrie Fisher looks back at the year the film took the world by storm, along with Saturday Night Fever, Space Dust and skateboards. (R)

10.30 FILM: Papillon. (1973) A Frenchman imprisoned for life on Devil's Island for a crime he did not commit makes a desperate bid for freedom. Fact-based drama, starring Steve McQueen.

12.55 Film: Badlands. (1973) An alienated man goes on the run across Midwestern America with his teenage lover, killing anyone in their way. Terrence Malick's crime drama, with Martin Sheen and Sissy Spacek. **2.25** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.20** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Rosemary & Thyme. (R) **3.00** Regional News: Weather. **3.05** ITV News: Weather. **3.15** Live FA Cup Final. Chelsea v Liverpool (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.45 The Cube. An athlete and a rugby enthusiast are challenged to complete tasks within the confines of the cube in the hope of winning a £250,000 jackpot.

8.45 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the final round of auditions, before judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon select the 45 acts to go through to the live shows.

10.15 ITV News: Weather. **10.25** FA Cup Highlights. Matt Smith presents highlights of the final between Chelsea and Liverpool at Wembley Stadium, where the sides battled it out to win the world's oldest domestic cup competition.

11.25 FILM: Boogeyman. (2004) A man returns to his home town to discover the monster he imagined killed his father when he was a boy is all too real. Horror, with Barry Watson.

1.00 The Store; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.50** ITV Newsnight. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** The Grid. **7.30** British Formula Ford Championship. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** The TV Book Club. **9.25** T4: Koko Pop. **10.00** T4: Made in Chelsea. **11.05** T4: The Pop Powerlist. **12.10** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.45** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Deal or No Deal. **4.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. Laura Rojales hosts the third dinner party in Aberdeen. (R)

6.30 Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party in Aberdeen. (R)

7.00 Channel 4 News. **7.15** Foxes Live: Wild in the City. More footage of Britain's urban foxes.

7.20 FILM: Mission: Impossible. (1996) A secret agent is accused of betraying his fellow spies, and sets out on a mission to clear his name. Action thriller based on the 1960s TV series, with Tom Cruise and Jon Voight.

9.30 FILM: Die Hard. (1988) A New York cop battles armed men who have hijacked a skyscraper in Los Angeles, where his wife is working on Christmas Eve. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis.

12.10 Film: The Negotiator. (1998) Thriller, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey. **2.35** Stand Up for the Week. (R) **3.20** Facejacker. (R) **3.45** Hit the Road Jack. **4.30** Slow Joe. (R) **4.35** Home Road Movies. (R) **4.50** Smallville. **5.30** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.05** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.20** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.55** Cowboy Traders. (R) **11.55** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.55** Film: The Naked Spur. (1953) Western, starring James Stewart. **2.40** Film: Ten Wanted Men. (1955) Western, starring Randolph Scott. **4.15** The Mystery of Natalie Wood.

7.30 5 News Weekend. **7.35** NCIS. Ducky is shocked to realise a cadaver he is using for medical research is the body of a murder victim. Efforts to identify the corpse lead to a criminal mastermind. (R)

8.25 NCIS. An ex-serviceman is beaten to death in his own back garden, and the agents are forced to consider the possibility his wife – a Marine and martial arts expert – is the killer. (R)

9.25 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Grissom and Warrick try to ascertain what happened to a woman whose mummified body has been found in a closet, and Catherine investigates the discovery of a gun on a suburban lawn. (R)

10.20 CSI: NY. The referee of a video-game tournament is murdered.

11.15 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

12.10 SuperCasino. **4.00** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Hana's Helpline. (R)

ITV2
3.25 The British Soap Awards 2012 **5.25** You've Been Framed! **6.30** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **8.45** The World's Best Diet **9.45** Grimelights **10.15** Britain's Got More Talent **11.15** Celebrity Juice: Pop Special

ITV3
3.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Film: Caddyshack (1980)

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kolkata Knight Riders v Pune Warriors and Kings XI Punjab v Rajasthan Royals. **8.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **9.30** Film: Tango & Cash (1989) **11.35** Film: National Lampoon's Animal House (1978)

BBC THREE
7.00 Doctor Who **8.00** Top Gear Vietnam Special **9.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.00** Film: Sin City (2005)

BBC FOUR
7.00 South Pacific **8.00** African Railway **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Parkinson: The Interviews – Peter Cook **11.40** Top of the Pops: 1977

E4
3.05 Made in Chelsea **4.10** Charlie's Angels **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** Rules of Engagement **9.00** Happy Endings **9.30** Film: There's Something About Mary (1998) A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart – but discovers he has many rivals for her affections. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz. **11.55** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4
3.05 Valiant (2005) **4.35** Carry On Spying (1964) **6.25** The Great Debaters (2007) **9.00** The Ghost (2010) A writer is employed to pen the memoirs of a former British prime minister, but finds his life in mortal peril. Political thriller, starring Ewan McGregor and Pierce Brosnan. **11.30** Dog Soldiers (2002)

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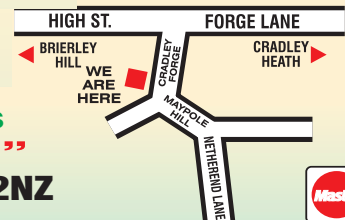
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PLANET EARTH LIVE

BBC1, 7.50pm

Normally when you hear phrases like 'the most ambitious live wildlife series ever undertaken' being banded about by the BBC, you expect the name David Attenborough to crop up as well. So, it may come as a surprise to find that Planet Earth Live is actually being helmed by Richard Hammond and Julia Bradbury — with a little help from some of the expert cameramen and woman from the BBC Natural History Unit. Together, they'll be spending May tracking the progress of young animals across the world. In the opener, Richard is in Kenya, tracking a pride of lions that are in the middle of a takeover.

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Sunday Politics. **1.00** Cash in the Attic. (R) **1.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.30** Final Score. **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Points of View. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.15 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison explores the Peak District National Park and Adam Henson visits Renishaw Hall stately home in Derbyshire. Tom Heap investigates a significant decline in bee numbers.

7.15 The Voice UK Results. Jessie J and Danny O'Donoghue each lose one act.

7.50 Planet Earth Live. New series. Richard Hammond and Julia Bradbury host this three-week event following the real-time stories of young animals around the globe, including lions and elephants in Kenya.

9.00 Silent Witness. Part one of two. Harry travels to Budapest. (R)

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Action from today's Premier League fixtures.

11.55 The Sky at Night. The second celebration of the programme's 55th anniversary.

12.15 Weatherwise. **12.20** Sign Zone: Empire. (R) **1.20** Holby City. (R) **2.20** Antiques Road Trip. (R)

3.05 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **3.35** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Flog It! (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. The Portuguese Grand Prix. Matt Roberts presents coverage of the third meeting of the season, staged at the Autodromo do Estoril. **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine and Rishi Persad present coverage of the opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the first eight frames of the match. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

6.10 Barry Hearn: The People's Promoter. David Jason narrates an insight into the life of Barry Hearn, who worked his way from humble beginnings to manage some of the biggest sporting stars of the past four decades.

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine and Rishi Persad present all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place.

11.00 FILM: Munich. (2005) After the killing of 11 Israeli coaches and athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Israeli prime minister Golda Meir sanctions a team of assassins to slay the Palestinian terrorists responsible. Steven Spielberg's thriller, with Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Claran Hinds and Geoffrey Rush.

1.35 BBC News. **3.35** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.30** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **2.10** Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady. (1975) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.10** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **5.10** You've Been Framed! (R) **5.45** Regional News; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 All Star Family Fortunes. TV chef Rosemary Shrager and her family compete against football pundit Robbie Savage and his relatives to win up to £30,000 for charity. Vernon Kay hosts the game show.

7.15 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Britain's Got Talent Special. Paul Potts and Twist and Pulse try to win money for charity.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the first of the live semi-finals, as nine acts compete for a place in Saturday's final. Including a performance by Tulisa, with her debut solo single, Young.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 William and Kate: The First Year. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's first 12 months of marriage. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the final round of fixtures in the regular season.

12.10 The Store; (R) ITV News Headlines. **2.15** River Monsters. (R) **3.05** Motorsport UK. **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Freeports on 4. (R) **7.30** Channel 4 Presents — 2012: David Clarke. (R) **7.35** Freeports on 4. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.35** Film: Big. (1988) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Foxes Live: Wild in the City. More footage of Britain's urban foxes, with updates from fox dens around the country and reports on injured animals that have been released to the wild following medical treatment.

7.05 FILM: Men in Black. (1997) A cop joins a secret force policing aliens on Earth, and teams up with a veteran partner to track down a giant insect. Sci-fi comedy, with Will Smith.

9.00 Homeland. Brody makes his final preparations to die for his country — and despite being sacked by the CIA, Carrie cannot keep away when she realises what is going on. Last in the series.

10.45 FILM: The X Files. (1998) Sci-fi thriller, starring David Duchovny.

1.05 Film: Band Baaja Baaraat. (2010) Premiere. Bollywood musical, with Ranveer Singh and Anushka Sharma. **3.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.30** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.35** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **10.00** Inside Hollywood. **10.05** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **11.00** Film: Scooby-Doo. (2002) Live-action comedy adventure, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. **12.40** Film: My Favorite Martian. (1999) Sci-fi comedy, starring Christopher Lloyd. **2.25** Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. (2004) Comedy, with Sarah Michelle Gellar. **4.10** Film: Mr Deeds. (2002) Comedy remake, starring Adam Sandler.

6.00 Once Upon a Time.

7.00 FILM: Return of the Magnificent Seven. (1966) Western sequel, starring Yul Brynner.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 World's Scariest Flights. (R)

10.00 FILM: Miss Congeniality. (2000) Comedy, starring Sandra Bullock.

12.10 Film: The Fog. (2005) Premiere. Horror remake, starring Tom Welling. **2.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** The FBI Files. **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Hana's Helpline. (R)

ITV2
2.45 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.45** Britain's Got Talent **6.15** Britain's Got More Talent **7.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.45** Nicki Minaj: The Hot Desk **8.00** Film: Wild Wild West (1999) **10.00** Britain's Got More Talent **11.00** Olly: Life on Murs

ITV3
2.30 Goodnight Mister Tom **4.35** Wycliffe **5.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Housewife, 49. Baffa-winning drama, starring Victoria Wood. **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Mumbai Indians v Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore v Deccan Chargers. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Keeper (2009) Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal. **11.00** Film: The Hunter (1980)

BBC THREE
7.00 Wallace & Gromit's Cracking Contraptions **7.15** Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out **7.40** Film: Chicken Run (2000) **9.00** Don't Tell the Bride USA **9.50** Don't Tell the Bride: Greatest Moments **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Russell Howard's Good News

BBC FOUR
7.00 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2010 **7.15** Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out **7.40** Film: Chicken Run (2000) **9.00** Don't Tell the Bride USA **9.50** Don't Tell the Bride: Greatest Moments **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Russell Howard's Good News

E4
3.05 Ugly Betty **4.05** Glee **5.00** 90210 **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.55** Film: Nine Months (1995) **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** 2 Broke Girls **11.30** Made in Chelsea

FILM4
3.15 The Time Machine (1960) **5.20** The Golden Child (1986) **7.05** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) **9.00** GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **11.15** Wedding Crashers (2005)

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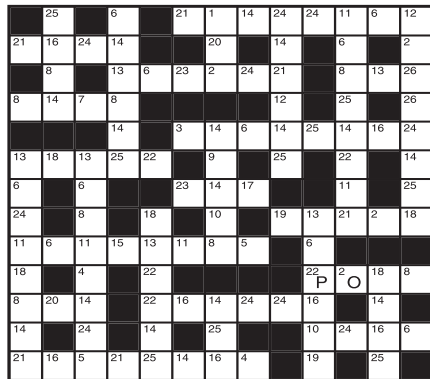
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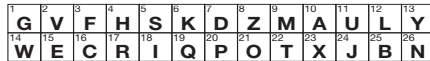
No.167

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. He bases his findings on an investigation of the headquarters! (12)
7. A thousand getting the lady upset in a crazy way (5)
8. Would he use a pitch-fork in his work? (5)
9. Tangled mass of hair lacking lustre, we hear (3)
10. Men once at the top of the building trade? (9)
11. The sort of task that confronts the mountaineers (6)
12. Some of the nuts and raisins for the girl (6)
15. A second hay crop at the farm, maybe (9)
17. Deputise in part of the play (3)
18. On many occasions two and five are used as fractions thus! (5)
19. No hint turns up as an aid to climbers (5)
21. Not conforming to the Rationalist doctrine? (12)

Quick Clues:

Across

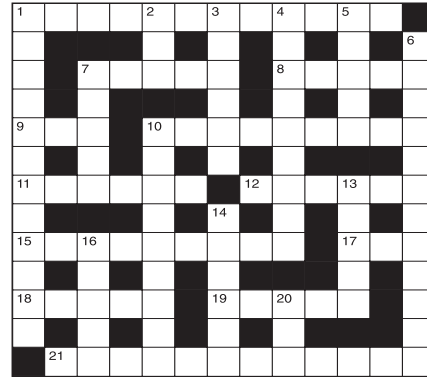
1. Damning (12)
7. Sugary (5)
8. Incite (3,2)
9. Be in debt (3)
10. Keep trying (9)
11. Recompenses (6)
12. Happy (6)
15. With utmost speed (9)
17. Row (3)
18. Projecting roof-edge (5)
19. Split (5)
21. Safeguard (12)

Down

1. Transport for a small charge (12)
2. Spaniard returns to fall asleep (3)
3. Bet on the fellow not being a priest (6)
4. What those who are unwelcome do on their own admission? (4-5)
5. Those who are 21 won't show this feeling (9)
6. Member of the embassy staff who makes news? (5,7)
7. This provides exact agreement for the contest (5)
10. Permissible range of variation shown by patient people (9)
13. Ended all square, as illustrated (5)
14. A temporary settlement by America provides space for students (6)
16. The big man has it in a shade of brown (5)
20. Can come before foil (3)

Down

1. Map-maker (12)
2. Before (3)
3. Constitution (6)
4. Consequently (9)
5. Rascal (5)
6. Immoderate (12)
7. Repose (5)
10. Grave mental disorder (9)
13. Ancient (5)
14. Money-lender (6)
16. Cut (5)
20. By way of (3)

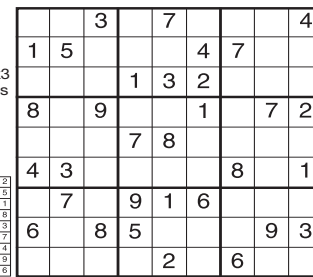


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Obelisk; 8 Torpid; 9 Masters; 10 Little; 11 In fact; 12 Careworn; 18 Ensnore; 20 Stoker; 21 Secret; 22 Sparrow; 23 Divine; 24 Varsity. Down: 1 Italics; 2 Orators; 3 Willow; 5 Bearings; 6 Let off; 7 Spruce; 13 Overcoat; 14 Entrain; 15 Settles; 16 Utopia; 17 Skirts; 19 Cleric. QUICK - Across: 4 Formula; 8 Marvel; 9 Statute; 10 Abduct; 11 Invent; 12 Lowering; 18 Optional; 20 Travel; 21 Becalm; 22 Satiated; 23 Alight; 24 Desert. Down: 1 Amiable; 2 Bradawl; 3 Fencer; 5 Outright; 6 Motive; 7 Latent; 13 Isolator; 14 Enlarge; 15 Climate; 16 Ornate; 17 Avoids; 19 Ideals.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

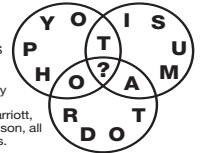
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is O. Harriott, Cradock, Grigson, all celebrity chefs.



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The spacious home is situated in Oriol Close, Milking Bank, and has scope for extension

Corner plot house is larger than the average property



A Bath stone overmantel and hearth with gas fire features in the lounge

A SPACIOUS detached four bedroom family home with integral garage on a larger than average corner plot in Dudley is on the market based on offers in the region of £249,995.

The house in Oriol Close, Milking Bank, is described as having scope for future extension to the side, subject to regulations.

On the ground floor the cloakroom has a hand basin and WC, while the lounge – 17ft by 11ft 6in – has a Bath stone overmantel and hearth with living flame gas fire and door to the dining room, 10ft 3in by 9ft 4in.

The kitchen, 12ft 1in by 10ft 4in, has roll edge work surfaces and breakfast bar, stainless steel single drainer sink, extensive range of wall and base units, four-ring gas

hob with filter above and electric oven and plumbing for washing machine.

A utility room, 9ft 9in by 5ft 3in, has a work surface, stainless steel bowl with mixer tap, wall and base units and plumbing for washing machine.

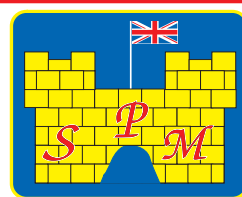
On the first floor bedroom one has a white contemporary en-suite with shower cubicle, hand basin and WC and there are three further bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of hand basin, WC, bidet and bath with shower fitment and screen.

There is an integral garage with door to the utility room, with a good size rear garden with slatted patio, lawn and well-stocked borders with established shrubs and plants.

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The kitchen has gas hob, electric oven and plumbing for washing machine



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KINGSWINFORD NEW STREAM ROAD £550 pcm Semi Detached Cottage, Large Lounge, Large Kitchen, Utility, Store, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	WALL HEATH NEW NEWBRIDGE ROAD £650 pcm Detached Bungalow, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	TIPTON NEW TIPPS STONE CLOSE £365 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking	RUSSELLS HALL NEW LANGSTONE ROAD £510 pcm Semi-Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Unfurnished.
NETHERTON NEW NORWICH ROAD £525 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	STOURBRIDGE NEW KNOYLE CRT, SCOTTS RD £350 pcm Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	DUDLEY NEW SALOP STREET £385 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, One Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, DSS considered. No Pets.	WORDSLEY NEW CROWNOAKES DRIVE £475 pcm Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Maintained Gardens, Unfurnished
NETHERTON NEW PARK ROAD £320 pcm Ground floor flat, lounge, kitchen, one bedroom, bathroom, off road parking. Unfurnished.	KINGSWINFORD NEW TIVERTON CLOSE £625 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Mostly Double Glazed, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished, Available Immediately.	BROOKMOOR HIGH STREET £480 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Bathroom with Shower, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, DSS considered, Rear Gardens, Unfurnished.	GREAT BRIDGE EAGLE PLACE £370 pcm Second Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Private Parking, Security Entrance.
WOODSETTON SHENLEY AVENUE £620 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens	PENSNETT HIGH STREET £475 pcm End Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished	KINGSWINFORD RAGEES ROAD £335 pcm Purpose Built Studio, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Area, Shower Room, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking	KINGSWINFORD ROKEWOOD CLOSE £625 pcm Mid Town House, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage at Rear, Available Immediately
DUDLEY THE PARADE £595 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, NO PETS	PENSNETT CORBYS HALL ROAD £520 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished	COSELEY ROSEVILLE PRECINCT £325 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	KINGSWINFORD FLORIDA WAY £675 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen/Diner, FOUR Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking
QUARRY BANK WEST STREET £525 pcm Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, WC, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Available Immediately	KINGSWINFORD HAZEL ROAD £575 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Store, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens	SEDGLEY CROSS LANE £585 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	PENSNETT HEYDON ROAD £575 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

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TIPS OF THE WEEK

In these days of rising energy bills you may consider renewable technologies to save you money but before you invest in any renewable technologies you should always make sure your home is thoroughly insulated in order to make the maximum savings. Visit the find a builder service from the Federation of Master Builders (FMB), the largest trade association in the UK construction industry, <http://www.fmb.org.uk/fab/> to find a local builder to advise you on what renewable technologies would suit your home.

Don't be afraid to turn away cold callers trying to sell home repairs. If you have to engage in conversation say you need to compare prices or discuss it with your partner, son, daughter or friend.

Each year more than 200,000 people are injured whilst carrying out DIY activities to upgrade or maintain their property. Don't run the risk. The FMB's Find A Builder service can help you find an FMB member in your area, visit <http://www.fmb.org.uk/fab/>.



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07878 146322.

FORD Focus 2.0 Ghia, auto, petrol, black, (03), 5dr, 72k, MoT June, tax Nov, excellent condition, lady owner. £1,800. 07401 896688.

FORD Focus Zetec TDCI, 1.8, 5dr, 05 reg, MoT/tax Nov, silver, 78K miles. £3,900 ono. 01384 878253.

FORD STREETKA 1.6
2003, excellent condition, 36,500 miles, 6 months tax and MoT, usual extras including air con, alloy wheels, etc.
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Telephone 01384 277750.

VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 1.2, 08 reg, 34,000 miles, silver, MoT tax, 5 door, very good condition, £3,999. 01384 882725.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6, silver, 05 reg, 52,800 miles, a/c, s/h, MoT Dec, Tax June, alloys, 1 owner, £3,495 o.n.o. 07984 751732.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8, 7 seats, Auto, 04, blue, tax and MoT, new engine, very good condition, £3,450 ono. 07988 630221.

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Tiptronic Auto, 2001, met blue, black leather trim, electric seats, Fsh, 55,481 miles, MoT Sept, a/c, c/c, alloys, SLK carpet mats, later facelift version, radio CD audio 10, chrome exhaust, 1 tailpipe, wind deflector. £5,600 ono.
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MG TF CONVERTIBLE 1.6 2005, Black, 33,000 miles, 3 months MoT, new tyres, A/C, Tax, F.W. CL, £2,950 ono. 07792 865935.

MINI COOPER
1992, British Racing Green, full MoT, central locking, leather.
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NISSAN MICRA 1.2S Silver, 2004, 29K miles, alloys, radio/CD, PAS, EW, CL, MoT Apr 2013, tax Sep 2012 £2,750. 0121 550 2200.

NISSAN MICRA SE, new shape, silver, 5 dr, Tax Oct 12, MoT April 13. Economical/reliable. £1,995. 07503 585359.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look, Petrol, 2008, 3 dr, silver, PAS, 17K, PSH, Warranty, MoT/Tax Jul, immaculate £4,495 ono. 07812 603187.

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FIAT PUNTO 2001, 79k, green, long MoT, private plate, good condition, excellent runner, £650 one. 01902 684291.

FIAT PUNTO, 51 reg, 3dr hatch, full MoT, tax June, new clutch, rear shock absorbers, 67k, bargain 590, 01902 411332.

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FORD KA COLLECTION 02 plate, 18,000, must, no tax, £1,000.
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HONDA CIVIC 1.8 VTI, R reg, good condition, 10 months MoT, No Tax, Nice tidy and reliable car, £700 one. 07508 994521

HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.3 saloon, V reg, good condition, 75k miles, MoT and tax, £890 one, 07582 012625.

MG MF 1.8, 1997, red, very good condition, 5 months MoT, £1,200.
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Silver, alloys, spoiler, roll bars, leather seats, Kenwood Cd player / changer, alarm / immobiliser, EW, C.L., very good condition, low mileage. Excellent summer car. Call for details: 07718 644048.

MITSUBISHI CARISMA, 2000, 12 months MoT, short, very good service history, good condition, £550, 07986 993948.

NISSAN ALMERA, Tino 1.8 SE, 2001, MoT end Jan 2013, tax end Feb 13, recent new cam chain. 12 months one. 0121 083294

NISSAN MICRA 1.8, X reg, 2 owners from new, MoT Sept, fsh. Outstanding condition. New tyres etc. 5985, 07552 487862.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2RN, 3 door, s/r, 1998, tax, 11 months MoT, 77k, in family for 11 years, £890.
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RENAULT CLIO 1.6, 16V Dynamic, 2002, 46,000 miles, 11 mths MoT, 2 mths Tax. Good condition. £1,500, 01902 845546.

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07961 055039

ROVER 25L, 16V 1.4 petrol, 2001, white, 2002, silver, full MoT, fsh, 56,000 miles, very good condition, £945, 07572 833335.

ROVER 45 IMPRESSION 52, 1.6 petrol, 02 reg, MoT August, excellent condition, £250 one.
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SABARU FORESTER All Weather Est, fwd, 2002, silver, full MoT, fsh, lady owner, tidy car, £1,275 one. 01902 791206, after 5pm.

SUZUKI ALTO 2005, 5dr, silver, needs battery, brakes and service. Nice condition, Bargain £885, 07838 751894.

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Vauxhall ASTRA 1.6, MoT Sept, tax July, good runner, good condition, inside and out, £1,100 one. 0121 5586223.

Vauxhall CORSA 1.2, automatic, 1997, 34,000 miles, fsh, abs, MoT, pas, tax, CD, excellent condition for year, Brierley Hill, £790, 07879 403306.

Vauxhall OMEGA 1998 Estate Automatic, petrol, Tax, MoT good condition, £550 one. 01902 682292.

Vauxhall VECTRA 1.8LS, 1999, MoT, tax, good condition, £595 one.
01952 375880 or 07815 799319.

Vauxhall VECTRA 2.0, 51 reg, 2001, good condition, reliable, economical, 117k, £900 one. 07815 070477 - 01902 830207.

Vauxhall ZAFIRA 1.8 reg, tax, MoT, alloys, CD player, £600.
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MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 360317

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ANGIE 36, likes cosy nights in/out, country walks, sensitive, caring, loyal, spiritual, seeks male to share life with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368885

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368297

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378295

50YR old female, seeks male for fun and socialising. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 233580

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387631

NICOLE attractive, blonde, green eyes, young 51, professional, own home, 2 boys, loves jazz, countryside, seeks genuine male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 390244

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387189

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387013

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386893

39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386887

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377432

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386169

WIDOW genuine, 70, kind, caring, NNS, seeks male for friendship, relationship, holidays and outings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 303133

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imagine a curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363428

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 359238

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 361076

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RAQUEL dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 366755

WIDOWED lady 70's, likes countryside, travel, seaside, seeks nice gent to spend time with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 362993

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384852

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MICHAEL 51, 6ft 2ins, looking for female, 45-55 for daytime meets, fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 390774

69YR old widower, N/S, honest, loyal, caring, seeks similar mature female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389255

THOUGHTFUL adventurous, attractive guy, 37, OHAC, likes nights in/out, seeks attractive girl with similar interests. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 360663

DARREN 42, likes pubs, clubs, drives, meals out, motocross, seeks female, 28-35. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389127

60'S MAmale, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381307

HELP help, help! Inexperienced CD, 52, seeks understanding female for fun and excitement. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 226021

MALE 60, strong needs, seeks similar lady for regular evening/weekend meetings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384219

54YR old male, 5ft 11ins, short hair, honest, seeks female for fun and TLC. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 390624

BRIAN Walsall male, 60, single, N/S, smart, casual, seeks West Midlands lady for mutual pleasure, regular meetings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374487

HONEST male 51, blue eyes, likes clubs, nights in/out, seeks loving female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 390479

HANDSOME attractive, fit, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 219790

6FT 2ins male, blue eyes, short hair, seeks loyal, honest female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 390917

MALE 51, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, seeks female for friendship, relationship and romance. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 308785

PAUL 61, seeks attractive younger lady for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388887

45YR old male, single dad, GSOH, kind, caring, loving, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388881

RAY tall, fit, 62, caring, seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388631

46YR old male, sweet and innocent but easily corrupted, modern, likes occasional drink, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 308893

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368871

GAY SINGLES

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80 years of safety is a Gem of driving

ROAD safety organisation and breakdown cover provider GEM Motoring Assist is celebrating its 80th anniversary and 80 years of road safety campaigning.

Formed in 1932 to champion road safety, GEM now supports conferences, award schemes and research. GEM continues to back national and local road safety campaigns, donating equipment for training, assessment and vision screening, and producing free motoring advice and road safety leaflets and videos.

GEM chief executive David Williams said: "The legend has it that our founder was involved in a 'near miss' with a young man in a sports car in 1932 and in response, a group of friends formed a club to encourage Care, Courtesy and Concentration on the roads, to reduce the growing accident toll ... and so the Company of Veteran Motorists was born."

"There have been many motoring changes in our 80 years and we have played our part. From drink-driving and motorway speed limits to lighter evenings and driving with pets, we have moved with the times, but our aim is still the same: to keep motorists as safe as possible on the road."

To mark the occasion, GEM has found vintage cars, one from each of the last eight decades and will take them for a drive around the Newhouse Estate in Wiltshire. An article about the drive will appear in the next issue of GEM's magazine Good Motoring. The piece will look at road safety facts and figures from the past 80 years.

"It is really interesting to see in which decade new laws were introduced to make the roads safer for drivers and reduce accident rates," Mr Williams said. "For example, in 1958 Volvo was the first to introduce the seatbelt, but it wasn't until 1983 that it became compulsory to wear one in the UK when in the front seat; something which is second nature to us these days."

Road safety history:

1932 The Company of Veteran Motorists is founded, a year after the publication of the first Highway Code.

1934 A 30mph limit is imposed in built-up areas. Zebra crossings are introduced. New drivers have to pass a test.

1935 There are 35 million vehicles on the world's roads. A 30mph speed limit is introduced for towns and villages.

1939 Petrol rationing is introduced, allowing each motorist about 200 miles of motoring per month.

1942 Theodore Porter from Clevedon in Somerset, joins the Company of Veteran Motorists. Seventy years later, at 98, he is GEM's longest-serving member.

1950 The British government ends petrol rationing.

1958 Volvo introduces the seatbelt.

1959 The M1 'London to Birmingham' motorway, the UK's first is opened.

1961 The 'MOT' is introduced for cars over 10 years old.

1965 The Government introduces a 70mph maximum speed as a 'four month experiment'.

1967 The breathalyser is introduced. All cars sold in Britain must now be fitted with front seatbelts.

1973 Motorists queue for petrol and speeds are restricted to 50mph to conserve national stocks and consumption.

1978 The Mercedes Benz S-class becomes the first production car with ABS.

1981 The Mercedes Benz S-class gets a driver airbag.

1983 Front seatbelt use becomes compulsory in the UK.

1986 The first speed camera was introduced, in Texas.

1987 All new cars sold in the UK must now be fitted with rear seatbelts.

1994 European crash test standards, later to become EuroNCAP, begin.

2002 Finnish sausage heir Jussi Salomaa was caught driving at 50mph in a 25 zone. He gets a salary-based fine of more than £120,000.

2003 It becomes illegal to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving.

2010 A Swedish driver is detected at 180mph by a camera in Switzerland, leading to a fine of £538,000.



Theodore Porter, GEM's oldest member, was 28 when he joined in 1942



1940s and 1950s memorabilia from GEM's archive collection



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Roundabout etiquette cuts risk of crashing

By Caroline Holmes

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THE HUMBLE roundabout, first introduced as a simple traffic calming measure, is now as much a feature of our roads as potholes and traffic jams.

But we're still not used to them. Last year there were almost 30,000 injury-causing accidents at roundabouts.

When approaching roundabouts, advanced drivers think 'IPSGA' – information, position, speed, gears, acceleration – the stages you should use to deal with any junction, bend or hazard.

Bear these stages in mind when you approach a roundabout and you will reduce the risk of an accident.

At roundabouts, it is useful to consider the whole thing as one manoeuvre – that way you have a plan about which lane to be in, when to move into that lane, and what signals you expect to use. But you must be prepared to be flexible depending on the traffic.

Information

Look well ahead; check your mirrors so that you can identify any emerging problems well before you get there, and make sure you know who is behind and to either side of you. Signal in plenty of time. If there is nothing in front of you, try and identify a gap in the traffic before you reach the junction. If you have at least one car in front of you, keep your attention on that vehicle until it's your turn.

Looking for gaps in the traffic



Prepare a roundabout plan before you reach the junction

encourages you to move forward to catch the gap you would have gone for, sometimes forgetting the vehicle stopped in front of you.

Position

Choose your lane on the approach, according to which exit you're taking. As a general rule use the left-hand lane if you're taking a turning before 12 o'clock, or going straight on, and use the right-hand lane if your exit is between 12 and six o'clock. Watch for any road markings guiding you, particularly when lane discipline is confusing, and try to give other vehicles enough space.

Speed

Slow down smoothly to a speed that's appropriate for the junction. If you can see the roundabout is clear, choose a speed that is suitable for going around the roundabout, but always be prepared to stop.

Gears

Once you're at the right speed, select the correct gear. If you are reducing speed a lot, or coming to a halt, it is perfectly acceptable to block change down the gears in one go, for example by going from fourth to neutral. Adjust your speed early so that you have time to separate changing speed from changing gear.

Accelerate

At a roundabout choose a gap in the traffic and accelerate smoothly into it – the same applies to any other junction. Gently accelerating through a corner balances the car, so keep the power on as you go through the junction.

To avoid being rear-ended by another vehicle, brake early, and keep your foot lightly on the foot brake while stationary, to alert drivers approaching from behind.

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SPORT

Tivi fourth in debut Alliance campaign

Tivdale 3 Dunkirk 1

TIVIDALE clinched fourth-place in their first Midland Alliance season with a hard-fought victory at the Beeches.

The hosts started brightly and Dunkirk keeper James Mason made good saves from Danny Ashton and Kyle Hill.

The visitors went close in their first attack when Gregory was denied by Tivdale keeper Tim Beech.

Dunkirk could have taken the lead when a mistake by Derek Cole let in Will Counts who rattled the bar. Ben Greenhalgh's effort from the rebound was blocked.

A goal seemed inevitable and it came on 20 minutes as Hill crossed for the unmarked Chris Russell to tap home.

The lead was shortlived as Kelvin Mushumbi slotted home from 10 yards.

The match turned Tivdale's way on 55 minutes when Jukes met a cross from Joel Kettle to head past the diving Mason.

A Coutts goal from a free-kick for the visitors was ruled out and the hosts wrapped it up with a goal direct from a corner by Hill.

Last game lost to very late header

Tipton Town 0 Rother 1

TIPTON suffered defeat in their final Midland Alliance game of the season in the last minute of normal time.

With their League Cup final looming, they made several changes and started brightly but could not find that little piece of fortune to turn chances into goals.

Shots rained in but few were on target although Max Black hit the bar with a cross-cum-shot in the seventh minute.

Tipton keeper Chris Collins saved well after 22 minutes of a scoreless first half.

In the second half, Rother had the benefit of a strong wind, but the match was turning into a typical end-of-season affair with Rother looking tired.

A draw looked on the cards, but a 90th-minute long free-kick assisted by the conditions found Darren Bullock in the right place to rise above Collins and head the winner.



Matt Neal stalks Honda team-mate Gordon Shedden at a very wet Thrupton circuit

Neal's wet weekend

HONDA driver Matt Neal salvaged points from what could have been a terrible weekend at Thruxton in the British Touring Cars Championship.

The Stourbridge-born racer is the reigning champion but suffered in appalling weather at the fast circuit.

He qualified just 19th but rescued 10th spot in race one, despite a shunt in his Civic. Neal improved to fifth in the second race and was runner-up behind team-mate Gordon Shedden in the third.

MG driver Jason Plato still leads the championship after some of the worst conditions the BTCC drivers have encountered. He has 129 points after picking up two

Touring cars

thirds and a fourth. Shedden, who had two wins, is second just four points behind but Neal remains in contention on 115 in third place.

The first race was won by Mat Jackson. Neal was left to rue "a scruffy day", but added: "To get on the podium in the third race was a good way to finish."

"And, of course, it's another great result for Honda."

"The main thing is, I've come away still in the hunt but it's extremely competitive out there."

No winning display to finish League One stay

THE SAXONS came up short in their bid for a third straight home win to conclude their tenure in National League One, as Tynedale's well-organised defence proved the difference between the two sides.

Stourbridge played into the teeth of an unseasonably chilly wind in the first half, yet spent the opening eight or nine minutes putting pressure on the Tynedale line with countless phases of play, only to find no way through, the Northumberland side eventually relieving the pressure when they cleared after being awarded a scrum.

The stalemate continued until just after the half-hour mark when Stourbridge conceded possession from their own line-out. Tynedale edged ever nearer the home line with each phase of play until the ball reached winger Matthew Horrocks, who touched down for a score converted by fly-half Matthew Outson.

Spot

Saxons' reply was as swift as it was effective.

Matthew Williams was everywhere, as often filling in at scrum-half or first receiver as occupying his right-wing spot, and he popped up in the midfield to feed Alex Rovira, the flanker dancing past visiting tacklers to touch down for a try converted by full-back James Hearn.

On the stroke of half time, Tynedale regained the advantage when left-wing Alan Rogers created an opening for outside centre Christopher Harris to cross. The wind pushed Outson's conversion just wide.

Another unconverted Harris try at the start of the

Stourbridge 14
Tynedale 22

second half, following scrum-half Harry Peck's break gave 10 point lead.

A swift riposte from the home side saw inside centre Ben Barkley create an opening from good line-out ball, with the unlikely figure of hooker Liam Wordley rounding off the move. Hearn added the two points to cut the gap to three.

The biting wind hardly helped Saxons' cause as one or two handling errors crept in, preventing the hosts from exerting pressure on the Tynedale defence.

A fine tackle from Saxons left-wing Gary Dipple prevented Hamish Smales from penetrating deep into the 22 after the full-back had initially fumbled on his own ten-metre line from Williams' clearing kick.

As time expired, Tynedale front-row replacement Alexander Westgarth strolled over for a try to deny the home side a losing bonus.



Matt Williams in action for Stourbridge in their home against Tynedale

DK return: Now it's hard work

DUDLEY KINGWINFORD player-coach Jon Higgins has warned "the hard work starts here" after the club were promoted to National Division Two North.

DK made it back-to-back elevations with a 36-27 win over Rossendale, from National League Three North.

Last Saturday's play-off game at Heathbrook saw coaches Pete Knight and Higgins, who scored the decisive try, lead the club back to the promised land after a six-year absence.

Fans can also look forward to a league meeting with Stourbridge Saxons after their relegation from National One.

That will mean Higgins facing his former club.

But the former Worcester scrum-half is looking at the bigger picture and admitted that DK will have to take their game to a new level.

He said: "Saxons will be a big game for the club. They are used to playing at a higher level."

Higgins added: "It's not going to be easy and it's a big step up, there's no doubt about it."

Athletic in control to lift the title with style

Gornal Athletic 8 Sporting Khalsa 3

GORNAL ATHLETIC bagged a league and cup double on Saturday as they cruised to an emphatic victory over Sporting Khalsa.

Ian Rowe's men claimed the West Midlands Premier League title with one game to spare, following their Midweek Floodlit Cup victory last month.

Gornal have topped the 100 points mark and also have a goal difference in excess 100, which indicates total domination of the league having lost only two games in the 41 they have played to date.

Next Saturday will see them crowned champions when Wolverhampton Casuals visit Garden Walk.

Promotion to the Midland Alliance league is a deserved prize following an excellent season after finishing runners-up last year.

Gornal raced into a 4-0 half-time lead with goals from Richard Young, Marvin Nisbett, Calum Martin and Kristian Green.

Five minutes into the second half, Young claimed his second before Khalsa rallied against the onslaught and pulled two goals back.

But Gornal then hit back and Conner Gater headed home to make it 6-2 before Kristian Green scored his second to regain the advantage.

With three minutes remaining, Marvin Nisbett scored his second of game and 30th goal of the season.

Yeltz finish with a loss

Halesowen Town 0 Taunton Town 1

HALESOWEN ended a season of consolidation in the Evo-Stik Southern Division One South and West with a narrow home defeat by Taunton.

Spencer Blackham bundled the ball home for the Yeltz in the third minute but was ruled offside and a 21st-minute shot from Jean-Michel Gueyes drifted just wide.

But flowing football proved difficult on a tricky playing surface in a game of few chances.

The Peacocks snatched the winning goal after 22 minutes when Raith Plant took advantage of a defensive slip and set up Rodney Marsh to finish.

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SPORT

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Silver lining
Ace Neal rescues
points in downpour
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Banks hits ton after Bradley takes five

Aston Manor (6pts) 208, Stourbridge (20pts) 209-7. Stourbridge won by three wickets
NEWLY-PROMOTED Stourbridge made a winning start in Division Three of the Birmingham League.

Five wickets from Matt Bradley and a fighting 115 not out from Josh Banks gave them 20 points.

Skipper Richard Bradley opted to field and was rewarded in the third over as Matt Bradley had opener Darren Baker smartly caught behind for one.

Pace man Dave Jones obliged in the ninth over with the wicket of Amardeep Sonkar, caught for 15.

Aston Manor's Orande Basscombe and Ify Saroup then piled on 76 runs in 10 overs until Andy Alexander's leg spin bowled Basscombe in full flow for 46. Bradley had the dangerous Saroup caught behind for 66 that included four sixes.

Alexander 4-53, and Bradley (5-82) took the remaining six wickets, though an eighth-wicket stand of 37 by Jason Furnell (31) and Aurel Kirmon (19) took the home side to 208.

Stour lost Alex Bingham for six and Bradley for 10, but Banks and Alexander took the score to 140 by putting on 85 in 15 overs. Alexander was caught on the boundary off the bowling of Arfan Khan for 33.

Audy's departure produced a collapse as Stour lost four wickets still 23 short of victory. Vice-captain Mikes Patel joined Banks and a no-risk strategy got them home with three wickets to spare.

Glassboys on the edge

STOURBRIDGE were left to sweat on the outcome of a rearranged match between AFC Totton and Bedford Town before learning whether they had an Evo-Stik Southern Premier play-off berth.

The Glassboys' draw at Frome left them reliant on Bedford Town winning at AFC Totton.

That match was rained off on Saturday and was due to take place three days later (May 1).

Gary Hackett's men were hoping that Bedford could win at the Hampshire outfit, as any other result will have seen the Glassboys miss out on a play-off trip to Oxford City tonight.

Stourbridge led on Saturday with a Sean Geddes penalty but conceded an equaliser to Mark Cooper.



Team boss Will Pottinger

Heathens set sights on knockout

Dudley Heathens

DUDLEY team boss Will Pottinger is desperate to see his side make it through to the semi-finals of the National League Knockout Cup.

The former Cradley club go to tackle their great rivals Buxton on Sunday with the return at their adopted Monmore Green home on Tuesday, May 8.

Ambitious Pottinger is keen for his team to challenge for as much silverware as possible in their third season.

He said: "Over the last couple of years there has been quite a rivalry between Buxton and ourselves and I'm sure we'll be taking a good contingent there on Sunday.

"It would be lovely to get past them but we need

to keep things close on Sunday before bringing them back to Monmore 'Wood' on Tuesday for the return. We want to be as competitive as possible in every competition and we just want to get some momentum going in our fixture list now.

"We have a team of riders who are desperate for meetings so three in four days will do us just nicely."

Before the cup action, Heathens head to Stoke on Saturday for their re-arranged Staffs Cup clash and they take a handy 47-43 lead from the first leg. They'll be without skipper Adam Roynon for the trip to Loomer Road as he is in

action for his Premier League club Workington. Tim Webster, who rode for Stoke last season, has been booked as a guest and is looking to put himself in the shop window after leaving Buxton last week. Roynon will be back, however, for the two cup clashes with Buxton when Heathens will be at full strength.

Pottinger said: "The riders just want to get back on track and get as many laps as possible, it's been a frustrating start to the season because of the weather."

"When we ride Buxton at home next Tuesday it will be a month since our one and only home team event, that's how frustrating it's been for us all."

Delight but no luck as Perry just misses title

DUDLEY HEATHENS' Tom Perry came within an ace of claiming the British Under-21 title on a dramatic night at Monmore Green.

The 19-year-old finished joint top of the scorers to go directly to the final shoot-out.

Perry was off the favoured inside gate - but his chances were lifted and lowered as Richie Worrall charged through the starting tapes.

Worrall was disqualified, but the bad news was that he had wrecked the starting mechanism so badly that the restart had to be run under the 'old school' method of a marshal letting go of a stretched piece of elastic.

To do so, he stands off the track by gate four - giving the rider on the outside, Joe Haines, a split-second's start.

He took full advantage with a brilliant run round the boards to lead.

Perry swept round Workington's Kyle Howarth after two laps and was gaining hand over fist on Haines, only for the Wolves asset to cover his attempted pass and take the flag.

The tapes incident was a second piece of fortune for Haines, who was stone last in his semi-final before Kyle Newman crashed out to prompt a rerun which he won.

But Perry was delighted with a podium finish. "Second or third lap I noticed I was getting closer to Joe," he said. "I thought: If I give it one big one round the outside, it might happen. "But he covered me pretty good and I'm just happy to settle for second. I didn't think I'd even make the final."

He now goes into the world under-21 qualifiers and has been drawn in the round at Blijham, Holland on May 19.

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ALBION SHORTLIST AS ROY TAKES JOB

ALBION bosses are drawing up a shortlist to replace new England manager Roy Hodgson.

The current Hawthorns head coach was confirmed earlier this week as the new Three Lions chief, leaving the Baggies facing a third managerial hunt in four years.

Chairman Jeremy Peace, chief executive Mark Jenkins and sporting director Dan Ashworth are discussing their top targets for the head coach's role.

Peace is back in the country following a recent holiday abroad so is on hand to lead discussions.

Ashworth again stressed recently that Albion had contingency plans to replace all key staff, including Hodgson.

"After Roberto Di Matteo joined us as manager, I said we were looking at other managers and studying them so, in the event of him leaving, we would have a number of candidates in mind," he said.

Change

"I took a lot of stick for that with people saying it undermined the head coach," he added.

"Well, he was so undermined that he got us promoted."

"Looking at what might happen next is not disrespecting or undermining anyone."

"We were simply looking at who might be a good fit here, should a change be needed."

"You don't want a decision to suddenly drop out of the sky and you sit there twiddling your thumbs thinking: What do I do now?"

Albion have begun planning for life after Hodgson by tying down key defender Steven Reid to a new two-year contract.

The 31-year-old has

by Seve Madeley

penned a deal to keep him at The Hawthorns until the summer of 2014.

And the news signals the Baggies' intention to push ahead with planning for next season regardless of an impending managerial void as they search for Hodgson's successor.

Reid, who has been with Albion since 2010, said on Twitter: "Absolutely delighted to be staying at WBA."

"Loved every minute of my stay so far. Long may it continue."

Reid, who is currently sidelined with an ankle injury, was awaiting news on a one-year option in his contract.

But his new deal overrides that agreement.

It also sends a strong signal that the Baggies do not plan to put off contract decisions on players while they hunt for Hodgson's successor.

Ashworth said: "We're delighted to have agreed a new contract with Steven."

"He's had a good, solid season and proved he is still more than capable of playing Premier League football."

"He is also a fantastic person to have around the training ground."



New England coach Roy Hodgson at Wembley. His departure leaves Albion searching for a successor

Praise from boss as Saxons coaches leave club

SAXONS chief Neil Mitchell has praised the work done by club coaches Thinus Delpont and Chris Fortey.

The pair won't be part of the Stourton Park set-up next season and Mitchell said: "We have been very fortunate to have been able to work with two top-class people."

"They have vast experience and I know the players have benefited. Hope-

fully the experience of working with these two will stick with them and help the Saxons bounce back next season."

Mitchell is looking to bring in player coaches for the forwards and backs ahead of their National Two campaign.

Among the 11 players signed up for next season are leading try scorer Nathan Bressington, skipper Ben Hughes and his second row partner

Robbie Hurrell. Scrum-half Peter White, named Supporters' Player of the Year award after Saturday's 22-14 defeat to Tynedale, has also agreed terms as has Mitchell's Player of the Year Ben Barkley.

Mitchell said: "It is essential that if we are to bounce back then we need to maintain the core of the side. I need to make additions and one of my aims will be to reintroduce our second team."

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